

61-1942
Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

War Dept. Labels Tuskegee Riot As Gross Exaggeration

WASHINGTON. (ANP) — Indignant over what they term "gross exaggeration of a minor incident," War Department officials are asking the general public to withhold judgment on an affair which occurred recently at Tuskegee, involving a fist fight between two whites and a colored M. P. The affair is now being investigated by the department and a full report is expected at an early date.

It is said that the affair occurred when a colored M. P. placed a colored soldier under arrest for drunkenness in the town of Tuskegee. A white officer attempted to take the prisoner from the M. P. and when the colored officer resisted, a fist fight occurred and the colored M. P. was overpowered.

Members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron are said to be confined to the camp pending the outcome of the investigation and it is promised by the War Department that a thorough investigation will be made and guilty persons punished.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

No One Shot In Tuskegee Riot

War Department Makes
Official Report on the
Fracas

WASHINGTON

Press reports that a colored M. P. took a colored soldier from a white Tuskegee policeman are correct, but incorrect in the allegation that the prisoner was being beaten, the War Department said today.

The statement continues:

"It is not true that a white filling station owner shot a colored M. P. No one, white or black, was shot."

All Guns Not Turned In

"It is not true that all M. P.s were forced to turn in their guns.

"There was no special locking up of ammunition.

"It is the usual and general practice, when ammunition is not in use, as a safeguard to place it under lock and key.

"It is true that no passes were issued to soldiers to visit the town until the furore died down. It is said that there is no evidence of prearrangement among the white civilian community or that persons came from neighboring towns to join in riotous demonstration."

ALABAMA

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

MP's, POLICE CLASH AT TUSKEGEE, ALA.

TUSKEGEE, ALA. — In a skirmish here last Friday night between Negro MP's and white policemen several soldiers were injured. All news of the clash is being suppressed and soldiers have been ordered not to leave the post.

FORT DIX, N. J. — A clash between soldiers at this military reservation left in its wake three dead and five injured persons.

WALLA WALLA, WASH. — The orders issued by officers of the 25th Infantry barring race troops from certain business places is creating a seething unrest. The NAACP charged this week that the officers objected to the friendly treatment the soldiers were receiving from the local citizens.

CAMP LEE, VA. — A soldier was slain on the balcony of the prison barracks by a white soldier. A board is investigating the slaying.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. — A military prisoner was killed instantly by a white guard during a brawl between two soldiers. No report has been made public.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., April 9 — In a skirmish here last Friday between colored military policemen and city officers, several soldiers are said to have been injured. The Courier has not been able to confirm this because all news of the occurrence has been suppressed by Army authorities and all soldiers have been confined to the Post.

The trouble arose over the arrest of a colored soldier by white policemen. Other details are lacking. Police officials confirmed the clash but said the situation was well in hand and everything had returned to normal.

Anniston Ala Star
November 25, 1942

Negro Riot Hearing Deferred To Friday

City Recorder W. D. DeBardelaben today postponed until Friday's City Court session a Negro riot in which five people participated on South Christine yesterday.

Minnie Littlejohn was booked for assault, charged with throwing lye on three people with whom she and her husband, Robert Littlejohn, were quarreling. Henry Baker, whom Minnie was expressly charged with burning with the caustic, was booked for assault with a knife on Robert Littlejohn and assault and battery on Minnie. Robert Blackman was booked for assault with a can of tomatoes on Robert and assault and battery on Minnie. DeBardelaben returned guilty verdicts in two traffic cases and announced no court will be held Thanksgiving Day.

That Tuscon Riot

Did you ever read articles in newspapers which in your judgment gave insufficient facts? The news release regarding the race clash last week in Tuscon, Arizona, is the type we are talking about.

Do you recall the story published under an Associated Press date line simply tells readers there was a fight? Nothing is said regarding what caused the fight. The public is left alone to reach its own conclusions. In the absence of the facts Negroes will assume that white people were acting improperly and white people in turn, not having an intimate picture of what happened, will be sure to rush to the conclusion that some Negro "got out of his place."

We have before us three items of this nature, all coming from Arizona. Two from Flagstaff and one from Tuscon. Headlines on the articles follow: "Quell Colored Soldier Riot," "Workers Clash on Defense Job," "Gun Fight Nets Term in Prison." The articles published under these screaming headlines only tell of police disarming Negroes, sheriffs rushing with tear gas on another occasion with a half hundred deputies, and in the defense workers story the last paragraph tells of one arrest:

"The man under arrest is a white man."

That is all we learn about a race clash where according to the story knives, guns and fists were freely used. Officers rushed 12 miles following riot calls. All of this difficulty happened at Flagstaff, and yet the Associated Press reporter did not assume it important that readers be advised as to what the fight was about and who started it.

Sometimes we feel that America would get farther in a program of race relations if on such occasions as this a true and graphic picture were given American readers as to the cause of race difficulty. A little gleam of light trickles through when we learn that after all this disorder the police were forced to arrest one white man. Would it not make an excellent story to tell what this white man did, and his relationship to the whole unfortunate incident.

Negro newspapers do not have the facilities for getting to all of these places for they have not developed a comprehensive news gathering agency such as the Associated Press. Several weeks later, after the majority of the American people have been left free to develop erroneous impressions about this unfortunate incident, the truth of this matter may be exposed to view.

It is this sort of fault in news coverage that justifies the existence of Negro newspapers. Twenty years ago the world was rapidly being convinced by newspapers printing half truths that Negro men in America were rapists. Publications in Lynchland reported lynchings but they failed to give accurate presentation of such facts as related to the cause of lynching. But Negro newspapers filled that gap, and thus have reclaimed the good name for Negroes in the world of today.

We know now, by grace of the full and complete story published in Negro journals that contrary to the insinuation and innuendo of twenty years ago which inferred that Negroes had a propensity to rape white wo-

men, that this is not true. Negro newspapers have exposed the fact that in the South the majority of Negroes have been lynched for such minor offenses as "insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, boastful talk, being a strike breaker, misleading a mob, striking a man in a quarrel, voting, throwing stones, trying to act like a white man, jumping a labor contract, discussing a lynching, gambling, enticing a servant away, slapping a white man."

A half truth is worse than a lie. In the dissemination of information readers should be given all the facts. The Tuscon and Flagstaff stories of recent vintage run true to form. Negro newspapers every week tell the other side of the story, that portion about which the white press is silent. Will someone please page Westbrook Pegler?

Chicago Defender

Washington Post

Chicago, Illinois

Washington, D. C.

Soldiers And Two Die as Negro Troops Fight Police Battle M.P.'s in Three-Hour Riot At Tuscon

TUCSON, Ariz.—A brawl which started late Sunday night in a Legion "dugout" here, put one policeman, Paul H. Bohardt, white, in the county hospital suffering from cuts, and one Negro soldier in jail on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. Two Negro women were held to answer for "inciting a riot," police records indicated.

The affair started about 11 p.m. Sunday when military police found a soldier in the place wearing what they termed an "improper uniform." That was evidently quieted. Not quite an hour later when Essex R. Peters, white, at the request of military authorities, informed every one in the "dugout" that they must be off the street at midnight did trouble break.

Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 27.—Long-standing bad feeling between Negro soldiers and Negro military police flared into a furious three-hour gun battle early today which left two men dead and 12 persons wounded.

With the aid of civil authorities, the Army put down the bloody riot and sent heavily armed and reinforced military police into the 28-block bullet-scarred fighting area to maintain order.

Approximately 300 soldiers and 100 military and civil police were involved.

Authorities rounded up 152 Negro soldiers and several civilians, including two women.

Col. Fred Ellis, commander of the Negro detachment stationed here, ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the trouble and how the soldiers obtained guns and ammunition.

Chief of Police Don C. Steward, who led civil forces called out to help quell the riot, said he believed the battle was the result of antagonism between Negro soldiers and Negro military police.

Trouble was brewing all night and was set off when a military policeman shot and wounded a soldier for resisting arrest after the trooper had hit a Negro girl on the head with a bottle.

About 150 soldiers were lined up awaiting buses to return to camp, after an initial outbreak had been quieted, when the gun battle began.

A jeep carrying Negro military police arrived. Close behind it came a car filled with armed soldiers. A shot was fired by an unidentified person as an "M. P." got out of the jeep.

Firing continued for nearly three hours as military and city police closed in on the rioters who were armed with rifles, pistols and at least one tommy gun.

A Negro soldier, whose identity has not been announced, and Robert Riley, 44, Negro civilian, were killed.

Wounded were First Lieut. August J. Essman, 39, of Sheridan, Wyo., and two other white military policemen, two Negro military policemen, a white city police officer, a Negro city police officer, four Negro soldiers and a 17-year-old Negro girl.

Abandoned guns and ammunition were picked up around the battle area during the day and soldiers were apprehended as they emerged from hiding places.

180 SOLDIERS JAILED AFTER TWO MEN ARE KILLED, 12 WOUNDED

BULLETIN!

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, fresh from a trip to England where he inspected the work of American Negro troops, has been ordered to Phoenix, Arizona, to investigate the causes of the riot involving several hundred Negro soldiers which occurred in Phoenix early last Friday morning.

Dec 5, 1942

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 3—Two men are dead, 12 persons are injured and 180 soldiers are under arrest as a result of a bloody clash between 300 soldiers and 100 military and civilian police, which turned the entire East End section of this city into a bloody battlefield for three hours Thanksgiving night.

One of the men killed was a soldier. He has not been identified. The other man, a civilian, was Robert Riley, 44. He was found dead at the wheel of his car. He had a bullet wound in the head.

Among the wounded were First Lieutenant August J. Easman and two white military policemen, two Negro military policemen, a white city police officer, a Negro city police officer, four Negro soldiers and a 17-year-old colored girl.

The fight is reported to have started when a military policeman sought to arrest a soldier who is alleged to have struck a woman. The soldier resisted arrest and was shot.

Other soldiers are then said to have come to the aid of the stricken trooper. Additional military policemen were called and a general free-for-all battle ensued.

Some soldiers, riding in a jeep and said to have been armed with rifles and a tommy gun are reported to have trailed a group of military policemen and to have fired on them.

(When the situation was believed to be out of the hands of the military police, civilian police entered the fray. The fight spread until it covered 28 blocks of the city.

The rioters were not subdued until heavily armed military detachments reached the city and took control.)

A military board convened early Friday morning and ordered the arrest of 180 soldiers.

Erroneous reports were published in daily newspapers here that the fight was due to long-standing friction between the soldiers and the military police.

"Too much Thanksgiving" is generally ascribed as the cause.

One of the most serious indictments against the soldiers is their possession and use of military firearms. This will undoubtedly lead to drastic punishment.

GEN. DAVIS AT SCENE; PROBE GUNPLAY CAUSE

12/6/42
**12 Shot as 300
Troopers Riot.**

Chicago Bee
Chicago

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 3—Although he has so far failed to commit himself, it is believed that Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis, here in official capacity this week, will conduct an investigation of the all-Negro soldier riot which held this city in a three-hour exchange of gunfire Thanksgiving night.

The cause of the fracas, it is believed, is jealousies over the attentions of women, who it is stated, play one soldier against the other. More than 300 Negro soldiers from a detachment stationed in Papago Park were involved in the riot. Military and civilian police were called out to quell the trouble.

The dead:

Robert Riley, 44, civilian, found with a bullet through his head seated behind the wheel of an automobile. Three

soldiers who fled from his car were jailed.

George Hunter, identified as member of 364th M.P., whose body was found sprawled in the street soon after the shooting began. *Chicago Bee*

The injured:

Negro military police: *12/6/42*
Pvt. Augustus Copeland, 27, abdomen wound.

Cpl. Irvin Anderson, 24, left hand.

Negro non-military personnel:

Doloris Thompson, 17, left thigh.

Negro soldiers:

Sgt. Charles H. Hearn, 25, in back;

Pvt. Lee Carpenter, 30, left hip;

Pvt. Bennie Bush, 34, left calf, and

Pvt. Charles R. Henry, 22, left foot.

White military men:

First Lt. August J. Essman, 39, who died later of a bullet in abdomen;

Pvt. Pasqual Romano, 21, left arm, and

Pvt. Chester Wojcik, 24, back.

180 Soldiers Jailed.

Approximately 180 soldiers are in jail, and military authorities were busy early this week investigating all circumstances surrounding the gunplay, which unlike previous riots involving members of the armed forces, began as an all-Negro affair.

Whites entered only when the battle actually started and Negro military police sent in a hurry call for reinforcements. Army officials are chiefly concerned over how the soldiers were able to obtain the guns and ammunition they used. Brig. Gen. T. K. Brown, Camp Lockett, Cal., who commands the southern land frontier sector, said the troops "obtained some weapons and ammunition from their camp at Papago park" while "others were armed with pistols, evidently obtained from civilians."

City Patrolled.

Three were killed, one a civilian, and 12 other soldiers and civilians, some of them white, were wounded. Twenty-eight blocks in the eastern end of the city still were being patrolled by armored cars at dawn Friday and

the last of the soldiers were being removed from civilian houses.

Arrested with the soldiers were several civilians and two Negro girls.

Feuds Blamed.

The riot was blamed on long-standing ill-feeling between the 733d military police battalion and the 364th infantry. Both are Negro outfits. This bad feeling was fanned into a flame Thanksgiving night by a cafe fight when an M.P. from the 733d sought to arrest a soldier in a cafe after the latter, in a dispute with a girl, smashed a bottle on her head. It is believed the couple had engaged in a lovers' tiff.

When the M.P. was called, the soldier resisted arrest, ignored his command to halt, and charged the M.P. with a knife. The M.P. fired a warning shot at the concrete floor. The bullet ricocheted, striking the soldier in the leg. In the uproar, both M.P.'s and soldiers got roughed up but there was no further shooting.

About 15 minutes later, there was a brief flareup a few doors away but this was quieted. It was about 40 minutes later that the real riot started.

Shot Starts Gunfire.

It began when some 150 or more soldiers from the 364th were lined up preliminary to boarding buses for their return to camp. A "jeep" approached carrying M.P.'s, followed by a civilian car in which soldiers were riding. As the jeep stopped and the M.P.'s got out, the soldiers broke ranks and became excited. From somewhere came a shot, and then a fusillade.

Soldiers broke for cover. Rifles, submachine guns and pistols snapped and barked. Sniping started. The outnumbered M.P.'s sent for reinforcements. Rushed to the scene were both white M.P.'s and city policemen.

It was three hours before military authorities could round up the soldiers and end the riot. Twenty-eight square blocks were blocked off. At one time every available policeman, sheriff's deputy and highway patrolman was on duty in the blocked-off area.

Later Maj. Paul W. Taylor of Gen. Brown's staff said that the 733d, along with the white 77th M.P. battalion, had distinguish-

ed itself by coolness and bravery under fire.

RIOT QUELLED IN 3 HOUR BATTLE

2 Die; 300 Troopers Fight Police.

Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 27 (AP).—A large section of Phoenix was turned into a battleground today in a gun fight between Negro soldiers and military and civilian police in which two men were killed and 112 persons were wounded.

More than 300 Negro soldiers from a detachment stationed in Papago park were involved in the riot, and bullets flew for nearly three hours before it was quelled.

Approximately 100 police, 75 of them Negroes, battled the soldiers. Hundreds of rounds were fired as police advanced into the district, where the embattled soldiers, all Negroes, were sniping from whatever cover they could find.

Twenty-eight blocks in the eastern end of the city still were being patrolled by armored cars at dawn and the last of the soldiers were being removed from houses.

The trouble began at midnight when a Negro soldier struck a Negro girl on the head with a bottle. The soldier resist arrest by a Negro military policeman and was shot and wounded. From then on the turmoil mounted with such rapidity that the sequence of events was clouded.

Police Chief Don Steward said approximately 150 soldiers were lined up on the sidewalk preparing to board buses to return to their camp when a jeep carrying military police arrived, followed closely by a car filled with Negro soldiers.

Soldiers in Car Armed.

A shot was fired, by whom it was not ascertained. Steward said the soldiers in the car behind the jeep were armed with rifles and at least one Tommy gun. The soldiers waiting for the buses scattered, and the battle was on.

At least 50 soldiers were arrested and taken to the city jail. Several civilians, including two Negro girls, were jailed. Those killed were two Negroes, one an unidentified soldier and the other Robert Riley, 44 years old, a Negro civilian, whose body was found at the wheel of a car.

The person most seriously wounded is Lieut. August J. Essman, 39, of

Sheridan, Wyo., a member of a white military police detail, who was shot in the abdomen. Others wounded are two white military policemen, two city patrolmen, two Negro military policemen, four Negro soldiers, and a girl.

Kansas City, Mo.
Kansas City, Mo.

Three Killed, 11 Injured In Gun Battle Between Soldiers and M. P.'s

180 Soldiers Jailed; to Face Court Martial; Army Officials Puzzled Over How They Obtained Weapons

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(ANP)

—With some 180 soldiers in jail, military authorities early this week were busy investigating all circumstances surrounding the three-hour riot Thanksgiving night which resulted in the death of two soldiers and one civilian and the wounding of 11 other soldiers and civilians, some white and some Negro.

However, unlike previous riots involving members of the armed forces, this began as an all-Negro affair. Whites entered only when the battle actually started and Negro military police sent in a hurry call for reinforcements which brought in white MP's and white and colored city policemen.

Army officials are chiefly concerned over how the soldiers were able to obtain the guns and ammunition they used in the riot. Brig. Gen. T. K. Brown, Camp Lockett, Cal., who commands the southern land frontier sector, said the troops "obtained some weapons and ammunition from their camp at Papago park" while "others were armed with pistols, evidently obtained from civilians." Of those arrested, he asserted that only about 25 or 30 were involved in the shooting.

THE DEAD

The dead were: Robert Riley, 44, civilian, found with a bullet through his head seated behind the wheel of an automobile. Three soldiers who fled from his car were jailed.

An unidentified soldier whose body was found sprawled in the street soon after the shooting began.

Lieut. August J. Essman, 39, Sheridan, Ore., white.

THE WOUNDED

Negro military police shot were: Pvt. Augustus Copeland, 27, abdomen wound.

Cpl. Irvin Anderson, 24, left hand.

Negro non-military persons shot were:

Dolores Thompson, 17, left thigh, condition good.

Negro soldiers shot included Sgt. Charles H. Hearn, 25, in back; Pvt. Lee Carpenter, 30, left hip; Pvt. Bennie Bush, 34, left calf, and Pvt. Charles R. Henry, 22, left foot.

White military men injured were:

Private Pasqual Romano, 21, left arm, and Pvt. Chester Wojcik, 24, back.

Two city policemen were shot: Joe Davis, Negro, slight leg

wound, and George Haines, white, shot in foot.

Unconfirmed reports stated were obtained together with the that there has been some feeling ammunition is being investigated for more than a week between by army officials.

soldiers in the 364th infantry station at Papago Park and the 733d military police battalion stationed at the state fair grounds.

It is believed that whatever occurred to start the wild rioting Thursday night was nothing more than a spark which set off a previously tense situation.

Fight in Cafe

Trouble was first reported from the vicinity of 13th and Washington Sts. It was said that a fight occurred in a cafe between a soldier and a girl. An M. P. sought to arrest the soldier after the latter had smashed a bottle over the girl's head. The soldier resisted arrest and allegedly charged the M. P. with a knife.

The M. P. fired a warning shot at the concrete floor. The bullet ricocheted, striking the soldier in the leg. In the uproar that followed, both M. P.'s and soldiers in the cafe got roughed up but there was no further shooting at that time.

Civilian police, white and Negro, were called to the scene. Order apparently was restored and the soldiers in the vicinity were rounded up and marched to 17th and Washington to board busses and trucks to return to their posts.

While the crowd of soldiers waited for the busses, an army "peep" with military police pulled up a short distance away. The "peep" was closely followed by a civilian car in which rode Negro soldiers armed with rifles.

Sudden Shot Is Signal

One of the M. P.'s jumped out of the "peep" and someone fired a rifle. No one has learned where the shot came from. But after the shooting, six soldiers armed with rifles were apprehended at 16th and East Van Buren Sts.

The sudden rifle shot apparently was the signal for the riot. Shooting broke out at several points. The crowd of soldiers waiting for the bus scattered or lay flat on the ground.

Automatic rifles, submachine guns, Springfield rifles and side arms barked. All the weapons were obtained, it is believed, from

the Papago post. Just how they were obtained together with the that there has been some feeling ammunition is being investigated for more than a week between by army officials.

Miracle in Few Casualties

After the rioting was quelled, the unidentified soldier and the dead civilian were found lying in the street. Riley was found seated behind the wheel of an automobile, killed instantly when a bullet pierced his head. It is believed that Riley was hauling the soldiers when the firing began.

Hundreds of rounds of ammunition were fired during the height of the riot in the vicinity of 17th and Washington and officers said it was a miracle that there were not more casualties.

More than 300 men were involved in the wild melee before order was restored.

The entire area was placed under strong guard immediately by police and military authorities after the shooting subsided.

In addition to white and Negro military police, reinforcements arrived Friday from Tucson to aid local officers. Soldiers also were brought in from South Mountain Park.

No Racial Feeling

There is no martial law, however, nor is there any racial feeling, officials stated. The entire affair was strictly a fight between colored soldiers and colored military police.

The first report of a possible riot was received at police headquarters about 9:45 Thursday evening. Officers were sent to 16th and Washington.

Chief of Police Don C. Steward was with his force at 10:38 p. m. when city police went to 17th and Washington to help load soldiers in busses and return them to camp.

Riot guns and other equipment were ordered to be made available. They were sent to 17th and Washington where the 150 soldiers were lined up to board the bus.

The riot scene was like a "second front," military police said. The long rank of soldiers

waiting for the bus scattered wildly when shots were fired, spraying bullets in every direction.

Riley is believed to have been killed when a stray bullet hit him in the head.

About 11:09 p. m., police said they learned that some soldiers were "out to get some M. P.'s" and that Officer Haynes had been shot in the foot. The patrol wagon was sent to the riot area.

It was three hours before military authorities could round up the soldiers and end the riot. Twenty-eight square blocks were blocked off. At one time every available policeman, sheriff's deputy and highway patrolman was on duty in the blocked off area.

Maj. Paul W. Taylor of Gen. Brown's staff said that the 733d military police unit, along with the white 77th M. P. battalion, distinguished itself by coolness and bravery under fire.

Chief Steward praised both the city policemen and the military police for their level-headedness throughout the affair. He said that not one officer lost his head or fired his gun without reason. The military police, he said, "knew their stuff."

All soldiers who were not involved in the riot were ordered to return to their posts.

The entire affair is being handled by army officials. Those held will be prosecuted by court martial. An investigating board was to be named by the military command of the frontier sector.

Among those arrested were two 21-year-old colored women and two 17-year-old boys. Two colored men were arrested for encouraging a fight and a 22-year-old soldier was held for carrying a .45-caliber automatic.

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

POLAND IN APPEAL ON NAZI OUTRAGES

Her Parliamentary Council at
London Calls to the World
Against Massacres

UNDERGROUND AIDS JEWS

Finance Minister Strasburger,

—More Than 150 Held After Fight Involving 500

PHOENIX, Ariz., Nov. 27 (AP)—Bad feeling between Negro soldiers and Negro military police flared into a furious three-hour gun battle here early today, leaving two men dead and twelve persons wounded. *Nov. 28, 1942*

With the aid of civil authorities, the Army put down the bloody riot and sent heavily armed and reinforced military police into the twenty-eight-block bullet-scarred area to maintain order.

About 300 soldiers and 100 military and civil police were involved. Authorities rounded up 152 Negro soldiers and several civilians, including two women.

Colonel Fred Ellis, commander of the Negro detachment stationed here, ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the trouble and to ascertain how the soldiers obtained guns and ammunition.

Don C. Steward, Chief of Police, who led civil forces called out to help quell the riot, said the trouble was brewing all night and was set off when a military policeman shot and wounded a soldier for resisting arrest after the trooper had hit a Negro girl on the head with a bottle. *Nov. 28, 1942*

About 150 soldiers were lined up awaiting buses to return to camp, after an initial outbreak had been quieted, when the gun battle began.

A jeep carrying Negro military police arrived. Close behind it came a car filled with armed soldiers. A shot was fired by an unidentified person as an "MP" got out of the jeep.

Firing continued for nearly three hours as military and city police closed in on the rioters who were armed with rifles, pistols and at least one tommy gun.

A Negro soldier, whose identity has not been made public, and Robert Riley, 44, Negro civilian, were killed. *Nov. 28, 1942*

Wounded were First Lieutenant August J. Essman, 39, of Sheridan, Wyo., and two other white military policemen; two Negro military policemen, a white city police officer, a Negro city police officer, four Negro soldiers and a 17-year-old Negro girl.

Abandoned guns and ammunition were picked up around the battle area during the day and soldiers were apprehended as they emerged from hiding places.

Afro-american
Baltimore, Md.

nesday, the situation was still tense.

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—With some 180 soldiers in jail, military authorities early this week were busy investigating all circumstances surrounding the three-hour riot Thanksgiving night which resulted in the death of one soldier and one civilian and the wounding of twelve other soldiers and civilians, some of them white.

However, unlike previous riots involving members of the armed forces, this began as an all-colored affair. Whites entered only when the battle actually began and colored military police sent in a hurry call for reinforcements which brought in white MP's and city policemen.

Army officials are chiefly concerned over how the soldiers were able to obtain the guns and ammunition they used in the riot. Brig.-Gen. T. K. Brown, Camp Lockett, Calif., who commands the southern land frontier sector, said the troops, "obtained some weapons and ammunition from their camp at Papago Park" while "others were armed with pistols, evidently obtained from civilians." Of those arrested, he asserted that only about 25 or 30 were involved in the shooting.

The dead were:

Robert Riley, 44, civilian, found with a bullet through his head, seated behind the wheel of an automobile. Three soldiers who fled from his car were jailed.

Pvt. George F. Hunter of New York City, whose body was found sprawled in the street soon after the shooting began.

The Injured

Colored military police shot were:

Pvt. Augustus Copeland, 27, abdomen wound; Cpl. Irvin Anderson, 24, left hand.

Colored non-military personnel shot were:

Doloris Thompson, 17, left thigh;

Colored soldiers shot included Sgt. Charles H. Hearn, 25, in back.

Pvt. Lee Carpenter, 30, left hip; Pvt. Bennie Bush, 34, left calf, and Pvt. Charles R. Henry, 22, left foot.

White military men injured were:

First Lieut. August J. Essman, 39, abdomen; Pvt. Pasqual Romano, 21, left arm, and Pvt. Chester Wojcik, 24, back.

Ill Feeling of Long Standing

The riot was blamed on long standing ill feeling between the 733rd Military Police Battalion and the 364th Infantry. Both are colored outfits. This bad feeling was fanned into a flame Thanksgiving night by a cafe fight when an MP from the 733rd sought to arrest a soldier in a cafe after the latter, in a dispute with a girl, smashed a bottle on her head. When the MP was called the soldier resisted arrest, ignored his command to halt, and charged the MP with a knife.

The MP fired a warning shot at the concrete floor. The bullet ricocheted, striking the soldier in the leg. In the uproar, both MP's and soldiers got roughed up but there was no further shooting. *Dec. 5, 1942*

About fifteen minutes later there was a brief flareup a few doors away but this quieted. It was about forty minutes later that the real riot started.

It began when some 150 or more soldiers from the 364th were lined up preliminary to boarding buses for their return to camp. A "peep" approached carrying MP's, followed by a civilian car in which soldiers were riding. As the peep stopped and the MP's got out, the soldiers broke ranks and became excited. From somewhere came a shot, and then a fusillade.

Men Seek Cover

Soldiers broke for cover. Rifles, submachine guns and pistols snapped and barked. Sniping started. The outnumbered MP's sent for reinforcements. Rushed to the scene were both white and city policemen. *Dec. 5, 1942*

It was three hours before military authorities could round up the soldiers and end the riot. Twenty-eight square blocks were blocked off. At one time every available policeman, sheriff's deputy and highway patrolman was on duty in the blocked off area.

Later Maj. Paul W. Taylor of General Brown's staff said that the 733rd, along with the white 77th MP battalion, had distinguished itself by coolness and bravery under fire.

BULLETIN
Brigadier Gen. B. O. Davis, Sr., is in
Phoenix investigating the riot. As late as Wed-

POLICE CLASH WITH SOLDIERS AT FLAGSTAFF

One Dead, One Wounded
In Latest Disturbance
At Arizona Town

With one soldier dead, another wounded, and three more under arrest, great doubt was cast upon United Press and Associated Press stories carried in the daily papers concerning a "riot" at Flagstaff, Ariz., last Saturday involving Negro soldiers and civilian police.

The War Department press section contacted by the Chicago Defender said an investigation was underway. It is believed that since the wounded soldier and those under arrest, a complete version of what occurred will not be possible until the War Department makes its report.

The situation was further confused when a coroner's jury the same day found that Merrill Schremp, an inspector for the Arizona Motor Vehicle department had acted in the line of duty when he killed and wounded the soldiers.

The jury held that Schremp acted "in pursuit of duties while assisting the Coconino County Sheriff's office in quieting a disturbance."

According to daily press stories furnished by UP and AP, five Negro soldiers armed with machine guns, rifles and pistols terrorized the business section after being refused service in an all night cafe.

Sheriff's deputies and city police were called, so said these stories, and quelled the disturbance. Two of the soldiers were dropped by fire from the guns of police and the others arrested. Authorities said the enlisted men were intoxicated and absent from camp without leave.

An article appearing in the Daily Worker disputed the claims of UP and AP in reporting the Flagstaff situation. According to this newspaper, which conducted its own in-

vestigation of the murder, civilian authorities invented a "lurid story of a 'riot' to cover up their crime, libel Negro soldiers in general and spread the falsehood throughout the country by misinforming the big press associations, the United Press and the Associated Press."

The Daily Worker reported that statements made by Capt. R. M. Stanford, executive officer at the Arizona Army post refuted UP and AP releases. When informed that the press associations carried stories that Negro soldiers were armed with machine guns, automatic pistols, Capt. Stanford is said to have declared:

"They are crazy. I can't imagine where they got their information. The nearest AP or UP bureau to this desert camp is in Phoenix, about 300 miles away."

The Worker charged that the press associations habitually rely upon reports of local police for news in isolated locations.

Original reports carried by the news gathering agencies stated 12 Negro soldiers were involved in the affair but according to Capt. Sanford this was not the case. He said:

"So far as we are concerned there were no 12 men involved in the affair. There was only one—the man who was shot. So far as we have been able to learn he was shot on the spot by a police officer."

The army officer added that he could not say whether the soldier was killed by a sheriff's deputy or a patrolman, but in any case, he stated, Major H. C. Nichols, the camp commander, is in Flagstaff making an investigation.

The dead soldier has been identified by the United Press as Jesse Smith of Pennsylvania. Captain Sanford did not confirm this report. He did however deny assertion by the press associations that the soldiers were absent from camp without leave and intoxicated.

"So far as we know," said Captain Stanford, "only one man was AWOL. We think he had been drinking. I certainly would not go so far as to say that he was drunk."

NEGRO TROOPS RIOT!

The Subscribers

FOLLOWING ATTEMPTED ARREST OF SOLDIER BY MILITARY POLICE!

TWO KILLED! TWELVE WOUNDED!

Phoenix, Ariz.—Long-standing bad feeling between Negro soldiers and Negro military police flared into a furious three-hour gun battle early today which left two men dead and 12 persons wounded.

With the aid of civil authorities, the army put down the bloody riot and sent heavily armed and reinforced military police into the twenty-eight-block bullet-scarred fighting area to maintain order.

Chief of Police Don C. Steward, who led civil forces called out to help quell the riot, said he believed the battle was the result of antagonism between Negro soldiers and Negro military police.

Trouble was brewing all night and was set off when a military policeman shot and wounded a soldier for resisting arrest after the trooper had hit a Negro girl on the head with a bottle.

About 150 soldiers were lined up awaiting busses to return to camp after an initial outbreak had been quieted, when the gun battle began.

A jeep carrying Negro military police arrived. Close behind it came a car filled with armed soldiers. A shot was fired by an unidentified person as an "M. P." got out of the jeep.

Firing continued for nearly three hours and military and city police closed in on the rioters, who were armed with rifles, pistols and at least one tommygun.

A Negro soldier whose identity has not been announced, and Robert Riley 44 years old, Negro civilian, were killed.

Wounded were First Lieutenant

August J. Essman, 39, Sheridan, Wyc., and two other white military policemen, a white city police officer, a Negro city police officer, four Negro soldiers and a seventeen-year-old Negro girl.

Abandoned guns and ammunition were picked up around the battle area during the day and soldiers were apprehended as they emerged from hiding places.—Enquirer.

Approximately 300 soldiers and 100 military and civil police were involved.

Authorities rounded up 152 Negro soldiers and several civilians, including two women.

Colonel Fred Ellis, commander of the Negro detachment stationed here, ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the trouble and how the soldiers obtained guns and ammunition.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

MACHINE GUNS USED TO QUELL PHOENIX RIOT

100 POLICE IN
BATTLE
Scores Jailed in
Western Disorder

PHOENIX, Ariz.—(Special)—Military authorities in this section were conducting a sweeping investigation Monday into a riot

between soldiers and civilian police here Thanksgiving day in which 2 were killed, 12 were hurt,

THE DEAD

Robert Riley, 44, colored, route 2, box 509 Phoenix, found with a bullet through his head, seated behind the wheel of a car at 20th and Washington streets. Three soldiers who fled from this car were jailed.

An unidentified colored soldier whose body was found sprawled in the street soon after the shooting started.

THE WOUNDED

The white men injured when white and military civil police were called to assist the colored MP's were:

First Lt. August J. Essman, 39, shot in the abdomen.

Pvt. Pasual Romano, 21, left arm.

Pvt. Chester Wojcik, 24, back, and in critical condition.

Colored military policemen shot were:

Pvt. Augustus Copeland, 27, abdomen wound.

Corp. Irvin Anderson, 24, left hand.

Colored nonmilitary personnel shot were:

Doloris Thompson, 17, 1807 East Madison street, left thigh.

Colored soldiers wounded: Sgt. Charles H. Hearn, 25, critically shot in back; Pvt. Lee Carpenter, 30, left hip; Pvt. Bennie Bush, 34, left calf; and Pvt. Charles R. Henry, 22, left foot.

Military authorities took charge of the casualties and no complete list of those hurt has been issued.

and 180 were jailed.

The riot started when a military policeman attempted to arrest a colored soldier in a cafe after the soldier had broken a beer bottle over a colored girl's head.

The military policeman fired in the floor of the cafe to frighten the soldier, the bullet struck the floor, bounced back and hit the soldier in the leg. This started a free for all fight.

Conflicting statements made about the affair were that there has been bad feeling existing for weeks between the soldiers and the military policemen.

A soldier and a civilian were slain. The soldier was found dead on the street after the melee and the civilian was found shot to death behind the wheel of his car, as if struck by a stray bullet.

The soldiers staging the riot had obtained guns and ammunition from a source which appeared to have been a mystery to military authorities. They were said to have had a tommy gun and a score of rifles.

Robert Riley, 44, of Phoenix, was the civilian killed. The slain soldier was not immediately identified. Authorities said they would reveal his identity after

has been hanged at Fort Huachu-

ca for killing another.

their investigation was completed. To quell the riot machine guns and tanks had to be used. Observers said authorities are encountering much trouble from the soldiers in this section. One

61-184

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Military Cops And Soldiers In 3-Hour Fight

Dec. 5, 1942
Standing Grudge Against
M.P.'s Erupts in Nite Spot

PHOENIX, Ariz.—A clash here between a military police unit and a group of infantrymen on Thanksgiving night boiled over into one of the worst riots this area has ever seen, ending only after one soldier and two civilians lost their lives; twelve suffered injuries and 180 soldiers had been imprisoned pending investigation.

Dead as a result of the pitched battle were Robert Riley, 44-year-old civilian, found seated behind the wheel of an automobile, a bullet through his head, and an unidentified soldier whose lifeless form was found sprawling in the street soon after the shooting began.

Pvt. Augustus Copeland, 37 and Corporal Irwin Anderson, both members of the 733rd military police battalion, were injured, Copeland from an abdomen wound and Anderson with injuries of the left hand.

Negro soldiers shot included Sgt. Charles H. Hearn, 25, wounded in the back; Pvt. Lee Carpenter, 30, left hip wounds; Pvt. Beanie Bush, 32, left calf, and Pvt. Charles R. Henry, 22, left foot.

Doloris Thompson, a member of the non-military personnel was shot in the left thigh. Three white soldiers were also wounded.

The three hour conflict, which had for its arena a twenty-eight block long area in the center of the city, erupted due to a long-standing rivalry between the M.P.'s and the soldiers, both Negro outfits. This bad feeling was fanned into a flame when an M.P. was said to have intervened after a soldier smashed a bottle over a girl's head in a night spot. The soldier is said to have charged the M.P. with a knife in his hand when arrested.

A warning bullet from the M.P.'s gun, aimed at the concrete floor, ricocheted and struck the soldier in the leg. In the ensuing uproar both M.P.'s and soldiers engaged in a knock-down, drag-out fight, but with no further shooting.

Fifteen minutes later, there was a brief flareup a few doors away. This

was quieted and it was not until about 40 minutes later that serious trouble began.

Dec. 5, 1942
Soldiers Scatter

Onlookers reported that 150 or more soldiers from the 364th were lined up on the sidewalk waiting to board buses for their return to camp. A "peep" approached carrying M.P.'s followed by a civilian car loaded with white soldiers. As the peep stopped and the M.P.'s got out, the soldiers are reported to have broken ranks and become excited. Someone fired a shot and then a fusillade and then the fight was on in earnest.

With soldiers running for cover, rifles, sub-machine guns and pistols snapped and flared. The outnumbered M.P.'s sent for reinforcements. White and city policemen were rushed to the scene.

It was a full three hours before military authorities could round up the soldiers and end the riot. Twenty-eight square blocks were closed off. At one time every available policeman, sheriff's deputy and highway patrolman was on duty in the proscribed sector.

Later Major Paul W. Taylor of General Brown's staff, said that the 733rd, along with the white 77th M.P. battalion had distinguished itself by coolness and bravery under fire.

Dec. 5, 1942
Soldiers arrested were taken to the city jail. One group of five was said to have been armed with a rifle. Abandoned guns and ammunition were salvaged all through the next day.

61-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Near Race Riot Results

MIAMI, Fla.—(SNS)—

Threats of mob violence, boycott of the Miami Transit Co., and suits charging false arrest made the rounds of Washington Heights and Liberty City all week after twenty-seven Negro women had been arrested and jailed on disorderly conduct charges filed by R. M. Hodges, bus driver for the Miami Transit Co., who accused them of beating, cursing him and ripping his clothes when he failed to stop at N. W. 7th Ave. and Fifth Street.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
May 17, 1942

Near Riot On W. Church Dispersed By Tear Gas

A near riot of negroes on West Church Street near Lincoln Gardens last night was quickly dispersed when Orlando police, aided by military police, threw a tear bomb into a crowd of about 500 persons.

The near riot began when a negro soldier ordered a bottle of whisky and then refused to pay for it. Military police who ordered the negro out of the establishment were attacked in the altercation, but soon gained control of the situation and with the aid of city police dispersed the crowd that had gathered.

New York Age New York, N. Y. Negro Soldiers And Police Open 2nd Front In Jacksonville, Fla.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—All places of business along a four-block strip of the Negro section here were ordered temporarily closed by Police Chief A. J. Roberts following a near-riot Sunday between Negro soldiers and Jacksonville police.

Bearing earmarks of a "second front," military police, Duval county road patrolmen, sheriff's deputies and city police armed with sub-machine guns and service weapons were called to restore order after Negro soldiers attempted to take a soldier away from two policemen, Chief Roberts said. The soldier was arrested after he was said to have threatened to cut a Negro woman with a knife.

Civilians joined Negro soldiers after police reinforcements arrived and several bricks were hurled. Six Negro soldiers were arrested on charges of "attempting to incite a riot."

FLORIDA Wason, Ga. Telegraph August 3, 1942 Negro Section Closed After Florida Clash

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., [AP]—All places of business along a four-block strip in the Negro section here were ordered temporarily closed by Police Chief A. J. Roberts following a near-riot yesterday between Negro soldiers and Jacksonville police.

Military police, Duval county road patrolmen, sheriff's deputies and city police armed with sub-machine guns and service weapons were summoned to restore order after Negro soldiers attempted to take a soldier prisoner away from two policemen, Chief Roberts said. The soldier was arrested after he allegedly threatened to cut a Negro woman with a knife.

Several bricks were hurled by Negro soldiers and onlookers after police reinforcements arrived, the chief declared. Six Negro soldiers were arrested on charges of "attempting to incite a riot" and one Negro civilian was jailed on charges of "interfering with an officer."

A Negro soldier who identified himself as Fred Marsh sent a telegram to Governor Holland seeking "protection from the Hitler-like methods of Jacksonville officers in beating up Negro soldiers," police said.

The governor communicated with Adj. Gen. Vivien Collins who said he will investigate the disturbance. Collins also intimated he will communicate with Camp Blanding officers in "an attempt to reach a solution regarding Negro soldiers on leave," police said.

Yesterday's altercation was similar to two others in the same vicinity during the last two months.

Kansas City, Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Florida Clash Not Interracial

"Drunken Brawl" More Nearly Describes It

Reports in the daily press of a near-riot at Jacksonville, Fla., were greatly exaggerated, according to William L. Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War.

The facts reveal that the affair was a "drunken brawl" rather than an interracial clash.

In a telegram to The Call, Judge Hastie said that an investigation by the war department revealed the facts to be as follows:

On Sunday morning two colored soldiers from Camp Blanding, Fla., and a colored civilian, all intoxicated and armed with knives, engaged in a fight in a cafe in the colored section of Jacksonville. The fight continued in the street with other soldiers and civilians joining.

Civilian policemen fired a shot into the ground and with the aid of colored military policemen dispersed the crowd in less than 10 minutes. The civilian involved in the outbreak of the fight was rather badly cut and was removed to his home. One colored soldier was cut on the leg, his being the only military casualty.

The two colored soldiers involved were taken in custody by the Jacksonville police and turned over to military authorities.

Camp Blanding and the Negro section of Jacksonville were reported quiet Monday.

There was no indication of an interracial clash, Judge Hastie said.

Savannah, Ga., News
August 3, 1942

NEGRO SOLDIERS STAR IN MIXUP

Try to Take Negro Soldier

Prisoner From Policemen

SIX OF THEM ARRESTED

Places of Business Closed In Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug. 2 (P).—All places of business along a four-block strip in the Negro section here were ordered temporarily closed by Police Chief A. J. Roberts following a near riot today between negro soldiers and Jacksonville police.

Military police, Duval county road patrolmen, sheriff's deputies and city police armed with sub-machine guns and service weapons were summoned to restore order after negro soldiers attempted to take a soldier prisoner away from two policemen, Chief Roberts said. The soldier was arrested after he allegedly threatened to cut a negro woman with a knife.

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A negro soldier who identified himself as Fred Marsh sent a telegram to Governor Holland seeking "protection from the Hitler-like methods of Jacksonville officers in beating up negro soldiers," police said.

The Governor communicated with Adjutant General Vivien Collins, who said he will investigate the disturbance. Collins also intimated he will communicate with Camp Blanding officers in "an attempt to reach a solution regarding negro soldiers on leave," police said.

Today's altercation was similar to two others in the same vicinity during the last two months.

Near Riot Results As MPs Mar Football Homecoming

NOV 7 - 1942

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Nov. 5—Citizens here, aroused over a near riot between white MP's and race spectators, which almost marred the homecoming game between Florida A. and M. College Rattlers and the Lane College Dragons, of Jackson, Tenn., have sent strong protests to Secretary of War Stimson and the commanding officer at Dale Field.

The trouble started when a Negro soldier and a white MP engaged in an argument at the Sampson-Bragg Field where the game was played. The MP left the scene and returned with a squad of white military policemen, all with sawed off shot guns, cocked, loaded and ready to shoot and endangering the lives of thousands of innocent spectators.

"IT WAS A HELL OF A SHOW"

In a letter to their Commanding Officer, William A. Morris, secretary of the Tallahassee Civic League said:

"It was a Hell of a show for the Army to pull off before thousands of intelligent Negroes, many of whom are young and trying to fathom out 'just what we are fighting for.'

"As remedial measures, I would like to offer the following suggestions for your consideration. Firstly, assign Negro MPs to games and activities sponsored by Ne-

"STOP BEING ALARMISTS"

"Secondly, stop sending out riot squads to Negro sections unless they are needed. Stop being alarmists. Stop working on the worn out theory that everything black is bad and everything white is good. You should give the same consideration to all races and to all sections of the town.

"White military officials in this part of the state are reported to be hostile to race members of this city and it was stated here this week that this is the second time soldiers have come to the campus of the college and caused trouble which might have been averted had they taken the proper attitude in each instance.

As a final word of advice to the C. O., Mr. Morris wrote:

"Teach your MPs that they are to maintain order; not create disorder."

NOV 7 - 1942

61-1942
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Mobs Defy Law; Four Lives Lost

Echoes of Famous Sweet Case in Motor City Recalled

By TOMMY WATKINS

Three policemen and two civilians were injured in Hempstead on Saturday night when approximately 50 colored residents of the community became angered by the manner in which a white patrolman was ejecting a colored soldier from a barroom.

A police car was overturned, another one smashed with bricks and the entire colored community of Hempstead was in an uproar for three hours on Saturday night before order was restored.

A riot force of 50 policemen and 26 Mitchel Field soldiers were instrumental in quieting the excitement.

Strict orders not to shoot were given the police and soldiers who battled the crowd.

According to eye-witnesses, the soldiers and cops kept their heads while the rioters hurled rocks, bricks, chunks of concrete and threw fence palings.

The trouble commenced in the Meal Bar and Grill, 57 South Franklin St., Hempstead, when Radio Policeman John Freeth went to the establishment to arrest Private George Dixon, a colored soldier.

According to police, Freeth had a complaint that Dixon was intoxicated, disorderly and threatening customers at the bar.

Pushed Dixon

As the cop was escorting him out to the radio car, a dozen on-lookers went to Dixon's assistance. Freeth shouted to the bartender to phone for more police and pushed Dixon into the radio car.

Radio Patrolman John Marlow

rushed to the scene and found Patrolman Freeth encircled by 30 angered colored citizens and within a few minutes, the crowd increased into hundreds of men and women.

Neighbors frightened by the throng, called for more police and 20 more cops hurried to the scene in nine other radio cars. Every bar in the community was ordered closed by Police Lieutenant Jack Kearney, turning hundreds more out into the milling crowd.

Surging Hot

Things were surging hot and heavy when the military police arrived from Mitchel Field. Over 800 colored people were battling the officers.

The battle was waged in guerrilla style. Palings off picket fences were used as weapons.

From atop housetops, chimney alleged vice moguls until the raids had been carried out.

"Big Joe," called the "big boss of Harlem," not only by police, but by denizens of the underworld, faces charges of peddling police protection for vice activities and it was said a boast of his to the Journal-American "stool-pigeons" was: "I can take care of almost any cop in Harlem, except inspector's men."

While this alleged boast of Richards was said to be the spark that set off the blast against him by police and investigators working on the case, it was also brought out that since Jimmy Hines numbers trial, there has been nothing sensational in vice for the dailies to play up and the expediency of a major vice scare with Harlem again in the spotlight would turn the trick.

Befuddled Blondes

GENERAL

Dramatic details of secret parleys conducted in penthouse hideaways in midtown Manhattan by high-ranking police officials and plainclothesmen drafted from as far off as Queens and Staten Island were blasted all over the town in the daily press' second major effort to, in the words of one well-known uptown citizen, bricks were hurled down on the soldiers and the policemen.

A gang of 25 or more picked up a radio police car and dumped it upside down in the gutter.

A second police vehicle was the target for a barrage of bricks which smashed the glass and dented the body and fenders.

When the pandemonium simmered down, Patrolmen Freeth and Marlow were confined in Meadowbrook Hospital suffering from multiple cuts and bruises.

Patrolmen Edward New, Martin Bedny and an unidentified woman were under the care of physicians at their homes.

Four of the participants were apprehended by the police. They were given suspended sentences when they appeared in Hempstead District Court on Sunday.

The four were Pearly Lee Rhodes, 20, of 17 Maple Ave.; Eliza Jackson, 25, of 55 South Franklin St.; John Miller, 42, of 61 Beach Ave., and Viola Ryan, 21, of 1 Maple St.

Taken to Mitchel Field, Private Dixon was placed in the guardhouse where he is a prisoner.

DETROIT (Special).—The nation is anxiously eyeing the Motor City as the sore spot on the labor and housing front. Smouldering resentment has already chalked up two riots.

Early Sunday morning, three Detroit policemen were injured by flying bricks and the fury of 2,000 enraged colored persons. The burning of a restaurant owned by a white proprietor followed the shooting of Henry Rollin, 46, during a fracas in a nearby cafe.

Started in Restaurant

According to police, the trouble started in a restaurant on Gratiot Avenue, where Rollins was shot by Peter Kafkas, Greek owner of the place.

Kafkas is being held by police pending the outcome of injuries suffered by Rollins, who was shot in the abdomen and is in a serious condition in Receiving Hospital.

Edward Wilson, 40, accused leader of the rioters, is being held for allegedly throwing the brick that struck and injured one of the

policemen.

Struck Back

Sunday's riot is significant, in that this is the first uprising in which the colored people of Detroit have struck back since the "shot heard 'round the world" in 1925. This, when Henry Sweet shot and killed a member of a mob that stoned and fired upon his brother's home in an attempt to run the Sweets out of the Charlevoix neighborhood.

Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy presided at this famous trial, at which the late Clarence Darrow, distinguished criminologist, proclaimed in his never-to-be-forgotten charge to the jury which exonerated Henry Sweet of murder "a man's home is his castle."

Rocked Nation

The recent flagrant "mass attempt" to stone colored people from their rightful living quarters in the Sojourner Truth Project houses, specifically built to house defense workers in this area, has rocked the nation to its foundations.

It is generally known that colored persons are openly refused service in many of Detroit's restaurants, cafes and even the lowlier hamburger, hot-dog stands.

Paralleling the conditions suffered by colored Southerners who flocked to Detroit during the 1918-1919 automotive boom are those of today. Two decades later, the new arrivals find housing and general living conditions not much better than those of their predecessors.

There is an appalling lack of decent living quarters and a noticeable tightening of the restrictions on colored persons seeking shelter in neighborhoods previously closed to them.

Visited by Mrs. Roosevelt

The slum district of Detroit, visited some time ago by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, present the same decadent picture today. Into these overcrowded, poorly ventilated, disease-ridden quarters are poured the workers who are expected to assist in carrying out the vast, all-important defense work of the nation.

It is not at all surprising that the dam has finally broken and all the pent-up, outraged feelings of Detroiters have overflowed the breakers. The only wonder is that it has been so long coming.

Together with the scandalous conditions under which the workers must live, there is the further injustice of doling out the least desirable jobs and less recompense to colored workers.

MAY 9 - 1942

There are in excess of 141,000 colored people living in the Motor City, exclusive of the thousands pouring in in search of work in the defense industries. Decent, liveable quarters were at a premium for too great a number before the recent influx.

Attempts to open new districts have met the unabated and stubborn resistance of Detroit's large foreign population, most of whom are Poles, Ku Kluxers and toughnites.

As late as November, 1941, the Ku Klux Klan was busily engaged in the Detroit area, in a verish attempt to halt the integration of colored workers into defense work in this automotive and aircraft engine centre.

No Abatement

At that time, 300 CIO polishers staged a 30-minute sit-down strike in the Packard Motor Company because two colored polishers, experienced workers, were transferred from non-defense to defense work.

There has been no noticeable abatement of this policy on the part of the foreign workers in Detroit who have aligned themselves with the "Negro-baiting" organizations of the Ku Klux Klan and Father Coughlin.

61-1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois
Seek Probe

**Of Riot In
Indianapolis**

AUG 22 1942

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (Special) — Citizens here are up in arms and demanding that the County Prosecutor and the Mayor investigate the shooting of three Negroes and the beating administered to two white members of the vice squad and a dozen others Saturday in what was termed a small race riot.

Prominent ministers and civic leaders conferred Monday and Tuesday with officials and asked that adequate police be placed in all sections of the city to curb a recurrence of Saturday night's mishap.

AUG 22 1942

The three men shot were attempting to come to the rescue of a young woman who was being picked up by members of the vice squad. One victim was shot in the abdomen, another in the side, the bullet ranging to the spine, causing partial paralysis and the third suffered a gunshot wound—the extent of which is not yet known. All victims are patients in the City hospital, and their condition is said to be serious.

AUG 22 1942

Trouble arose when the woman, who admitted to police that she had been arrested seven times for soliciting and reputedly with a Louisville police record, was hailed by two white vice squad plainclothes policemen when she neared their car. She was snatched into the vehicle, but screamed as she leaped from their grasp in an effort to escape. The woman under questioning stated that one of the officers struck her. Spectators stated that colored men knew the habit and tactics of whites who solicit paid affections of women believed that the girl was being attacked—the crowd gathering at the scene, the officers appeared to lose their "heads" and drew guns as the crowd gathered around them.

AUG 22 1942

A white motorist passing the scene saw the officers with a crowd around them stopped his car and came to the "rescue." He was slashed about the chest; his wounds required 124 stitches; and at this point the officers fired recklessly, wounding a defense plant employee who had discharged a group of

fellow workers from his car. This caused further disturbance and irate citizens disarmed the officers and beat them badly. Several other persons were hurt in the melee.

A committee of prominent citizens, composed of Rev. J. A. Alexander, R. T. Andrews, O. A. Calhoun, S. W. James, Shirley H. Winfrey and W. Chester Hibbitt conferred with the county prosecutor. They urged that padlock proceedings be observed on all law violators regardless of race, creed or color. They also recommended that

Negroes be allowed to serve on the grand jury to insure an impartial investigation.

AUG 22 1942

The committee further recommended that the practice of white men roving in Negro districts be stopped and that investigators, colored and white be assigned to the district to avoid further trouble. The committee also reported to the prosecutor that white men have been circulating throughout the district urging colored persons to support the Japanese, informing the race citizen that the Japanese are his friends.

One of the causes of the disturbances, it is believed, was due to the fact that Negro police squad car No. 31 had been removed from the district. The committee urged the Mayor to order this car back into service.

INDIANA

used

61-1942

Columbia, Mo. - Columbia Progress
January 15, 1942

NORTH'S INTEREST IN NEGROES NOT EVIDENT IN PRACTICE

On the same day that Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt and other national leaders addressed a large gathering in Louisville to preach the gospel of "equality and brotherhood" between white and black, a race riot in Alexandria, La., resulted in serious injuries to a score of colored soldiers and military police.

The trouble in Alexandria came about when a Wisconsin M. P. arrested a Negro soldier. About 500 Negro soldiers, all from the Northern and Eastern states, and a number of Wisconsin M. P.'s, aided by Alexandria police called to the scene, engaged in a riot that caused much property damage as well as injuries.

We are in full sympathy with those who sincerely desire a growth of understanding between the black and white races. Unfortunately, our critics in the North and East, who find so much wrong with the manner in which we deal with our Negro population, show little understanding of their own Negroes in whom they profess so much interest. It has been plainly stated in all reports that the trouble in Alexandria was caused entirely by Northern white soldiers and Northern and Eastern Negroes.

We suggest to our idealistic cousins of the North and East that they try a little of that understanding they prate about so much in their own dealings with the Negro. Here in the South white and black live in harmony which grows in strength through the years. We understand the Negro, and he understands us, and it is the result of a combination of firm discipline, and helpfulness by the Whites over a period of years. Our Negro people, by their own efforts, have earned for themselves the tolerance and kindness they now accept as a matter of course.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

NAACP Says War Dept. To Blame For Dixie Riot

Claim Whites Started Riot; General
Davis Starts Investigation

ALEXANDRIA, La., Jan. 23 (AACP)—Repercussions are still being heard from the riot between military and civilian police, and Negro soldiers stationed nearby at Camps Claiborne and Livingston. The scene of the turbulent outburst between white officials and Negro soldiers was laid in the heart of the Negro district in Alexandria last Saturday night, allegedly growing out of a white officer's clubbing of a Negro soldier in the front of Ritz theatre on a claim of nonpayment of admission to the theatre. This was the first race riot of the new world war and was believed caused by the war department's practice of shipping north-

LOUISIANA

but was expected to probe the situation. **JAN 23 1942**

The Alexandria NAACP branch voiced condemnation against the "short-sighted policies of the war department in their refusal to order the arming of efficient colored MP's who would be fully competent to maintain law and order in the colored section of the city." The NAACP declared "It is contradictory and hypocritical to fight Fascism abroad and at the same time allow it to be practiced within our own territorial boundaries, when it is our avowed national policy to carry the 'four freedoms' into every nook and corner of the world, including the reactionary south."

According to reports gleaned from witnesses to the open clash, the soldier, whom it was claimed had not paid admission to the theatre, refused to be arrested and the officer began belaboring him. Resenting the treatment of their fellow chum, others joined in. Civilian officers, state officers and civilians joined in the fight. Military police called police headquarters, where MP reinforcements were stationed and secured additional help. **JAN 23 1942**

In the prolonged clash, which lasted about two hours, scores of white and colored citizens were wounded. Unconfirmed reports state that several Negro soldiers were killed. One woman, May Francis Scales, shot by a white civilian policeman, is now in a critical condition at Huey Long hospital here.

Wholesale damages were wreaked upon Negro businesses. David Hies, principal of Peabody high school, was one of the businessmen who suffered not only damage to his business but also from a beating administered by a civilian officer, because he inquired why he should close his cafe.

One report has it that the Dixie grill, operated by Negroes, was ransacked by white officers and the cash register and approximately \$85 taken. Several hundred Negro soldiers in the grill were allegedly fired upon. Negro women were beaten, kicked and thrown out. **JAN 23 1942**

In the melee, Negro MP's had improvised billies; white MP's, guns and loaded billies, while the "hol polloi" swarmed through the Negro district in a four block area on Lee street bounded by Seventh

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE WAR DEPARTMENT

Two weeks have passed since the news of the riot in Alexandria, La., shocked Negro America and some decent white citizens. The number of Negro soldiers that were shot and beaten in the clash that took place on January 9, has been estimated at 28. All attempts by the Chicago Defender to obtain an official report of the facts from the War Department, have been unavailing. **JAN 31 1942**

In replying to an inquiry made by the Defender, Col. Ernest R. Dupuy of the War Department stated in a telegram dated January 12, that:

"Report from Alexandria due soon though possibly not today. Will wire you full information as soon as available here."

On that same day, Judge William H. Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, sent the following wire to the Defender:

"War Department Bureau of Public Relations will make direct reply to your inquiry concerning Alexandria, Louisiana disturbance."

Up to the time of this writing no report of any kind from the War Department has yet been received. In the face of this complete black-out of the facts incidental to the Alexandria disturbance, we have the suspicion that the evidence uncovered is so damaging that the War Department dares not give publicity to it. **JAN 31 1942**

Whatever may have been the contributing causes to this riot, the wall of censorship erected around it by Washington authorities does not heighten faith in the integrity and intelligence of responsible Army officials. The public is entitled to know the truth. And, it would advance public morale considerably if at the same time assurances were given that preventive measures were being enforced that would make such occurrences impossible in the future.

President Hears Of Mistreatment Of Troops In La.

JAN 22 1942

ALEXANDRIA, La.—(SNS)—Greatly alarmed at the grave situation brought about by the unwarranted attack upon unsuspecting Negro M. P.'s., soldiers and civilians, the Baptist Ministers' Alliance of Alexandria drew up an appeal to be sent President Franklin D. Roosevelt here Wednesday.

In clear, concise and forceful language, the churchmen's communication to the President set forth some of the many indignities heaped upon helpless and unsuspecting Negro soldiers and civilians in the famous Alexandria riot last Saturday night, and urged that he would bring to bear "every influence at his command," in the matter.

The ministers appealed to the President in the name of Justice, Fairness and Democracy. They set out in their appeal that, "If the Alexandria type of Democracy" as exhibited in Saturday night's riot and attack upon Negro M. P.'s., soldiers and civilians "is the type we are to expect, we frankly say: We would rather take our chances with something else!" Feeling is bitter here.

JAN 22 1942
Negro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Narrow Blocks

By RALPH MATTHEWS

ALEXANDRIA, La.—The rest of the country might be fighting World War II against Germany, Italy and Japan, but this little prejudice-ridden town, dipped in the deep dye of the old South, is still fighting the Civil War.

This was evidenced by the outbreak which on Saturday night, January 10, turned the colored commercial section along the narrow four blocks of Lee Street into a seething inferno which may cost a score of defenseless colored soldiers their lives and remain as a black blot on America for the duration.

False Rumors Bared

More evidence is found in the

Remember Lee Street

CAMP CLAIBORNE, La.—"I don't know how I got to safety, after the riot," a dazed draftee told the AFRO.

"I only know one thing, and that is, whenever anybody says 'Remember Pearl Harbor,' I will say, 'I will remember Lee Street.'"

studied effort of the local newspaper, the Alexandria Town Talk, and other correspondents to saddle the whole blame for the interracial outbreak on Northerners, both colored and white.

This is compounded in the releases stressing the falsehood that white M.P.'s from Wisconsin did battle with colored troops from Chicago, Indiana and Illinois.

The AFRO learned that the white military officers who precipitated the trouble were natives

of Mississippi, who had been carrying on a systematic program of abuse against colored soldiers for months, subjecting them to every form of indignity.

Local Sentiment Honored

In talking with scores of soldiers at Camps Livingston and Beauregard, I was informed that this campaign of terrorism had the direct approval of army officers who worked in close conjunction with the civil authorities, giving the soldiers no consideration whatever in matters which conflicted with the wishes of the local community.

The whole truth is that Southern whites openly resent the presence of colored soldiers in their midst, and forego no opportunity to make their feelings known.

Colored soldiers are not permitted in the white section of the town, and the thousands assigned to the three camps within a radius of thirty-five miles are confined to the small four-block area hardly capable of accommodating the local residents and those from the rural communities who swarm into town on Saturday nights to do their shopping and attend the only movie in the section.

Staged Deliberately

That is why there were nearly 2,000 persons in this narrow village street Saturday night, January 10, when the police decided to stage their blitzkrieg.

There is little doubt that the whole affair was deliberately staged and that the authorities were anxious for some provocation, however slight, to vent their hatred on the unsuspecting pleasure-seekers.

Otherwise, there is no way to account for the fact that they were ready in less than ten minutes, with more than fifty State police, fully equipped with tear gas, sawed-off shotguns and other riot equipment.

These were joined by twenty-five or thirty white military police who had stored their riot equipment in the police station, two blocks from the edge of the colored district, as if prearranged.

Armaments Abnormal

Normally there would not be this much riot equipment in the entire city on a minute's notice.

Once the trouble was started, no attempt was made to restore peace through the ordinary methods of policing.

Without stopping to investigate, the coppers bore down on the little street, with guns blazing, driving the milling crowds—who were more curiosity seekers than trouble-makers—into a bottleneck from which they could not escape.

Escape Cut Off

Those who attempted to make their getaway through side streets were driven back into the street by patrolmen on motorcycles, firing into the air.

Several persons were trampled under foot in the excitement. A waitress related how she helped to pull a woman to safety out of a doorway after a number of customers had stamped over her prostrate body.

Caught unaware by the suddenness of the shooting, hundreds of soldiers rushed for the special jim-crow bus station to return to their respective camps.

Bared from Busses

Normally, on Saturday nights, from eight to ten busses are kept here to take care of the boys. But on this Saturday, when the boys tried to reach the runway, white drivers bolted the doors and beat the soldiers off with cranks and jacks, forcing them back into the street and the line of the policemen's fire.

Not content with driving the mob sheep into the cafes and taverns along the crowded street, the police then decided they would have more fun by driving them all out into the streets again.

Gas Bombs Used

So they rushed along the street, throwing tear-gas bombs into the establishments, causing the crowd to stagger, blinded and choked, out into the street where they were clubbed and beaten.

When some preferred the stifling gas to the risk of being shot, policemen rushed inside, firing their pistols into the ceiling.

Frightened at first by the suddenness of the attack, the soldiers scurried to cover, not certain what the meaning of the shooting was.

Forced to Fight

Then, seeing women and children attacked and trampled underfoot, their buddies being shot down in cold blood, their way of escape barred by bus drivers placed there to accommodate them, the soldiers, like trapped rats, began to fight back, using only their bare fists, bottles and clubs.

For two hours they held the armed raiders at bay in hand-to-hand fighting. Some idea of the desperateness of the situation is revealed by the account given by a citizen who lives on a side street just off Lee.

Saw Unprovoked Shooting

"I listened to the commotion for some time," he said, "herding my family together so none would get hurt. When I thought it had died down I cautiously crept out on my porch. I got down on my hands and knees when I saw two white M.P.'s coming down the

street.

"They leaped over my hedge and hid when they saw a colored soldier approach. I distinctly heard one of them say, 'Here comes a d— n—r soldier now; let him have it.'"

"They started shooting point blank at him as he fled, with the pair in hot pursuit, pumping their revolvers. I don't know whether they struck him or not."

Abuse Prolonged

Order was restored by 10 p.m., but the police had not yet quenched their thirst for blood. They prowled about the streets clubbing unsuspecting colored pedestrians, many of whom were returning from work in outlying sections, unaware that there had been any trouble.

It was nearly two hours later, at midnight, when State troopers and white M.P.'s entered a small dance hall where colored citizens were dancing peaceably. They first backed the dancers against the wall with drawn revolvers, and began questioning all about their whereabouts earlier in the night, cuffing and slapping those whose replies they did not like.

Finished with their inquisition, one officer leaped upon a ramshackle table and fired his revolver in the ceiling. As the crowd stamped down the stairs, they were clubbed by other officers waiting in the door and hallway. Both women and men were beaten unmercifully.

La. Rioting Planned by Whites

Had Tear Gas and
Riot Guns Stored
Up in Readiness

SOLDIERS HAD TO
FIGHT IN DEFENSE

2,000 Herded into

61-1942

LOUISIANA

Summit, Miss. Sentinel
January 15, 1942

sult in future disorders? 4070

THE NEGRO SCENE

News that came Monday of a near-riot of alarming proportions last Saturday at Alexandria between colored and white members of the U. S. armed forces stationed at Camp Livingston near that city was bad news to many an American citizen, white and colored.

Apparently, the situation was caused by the attitude of certain colored soldiers in the camp toward white authority. The negroes involved were inhabitants of northern states in peace-time, and it was an ill-advised mistake on the part of the War Department ever to have stationed them in the deep south.

The recent news about the colored inhabitants of the United States with reference to their war activities had been uniformly good prior to this piece of very bad news.

Joe Louis, the champion fighter of the world and one of the all-time greats of the prizefighting game, has been responsible for a good deal of the improved attitude toward the negro. A clean, straight Alabama boy, who, despite managers who are more or less shady in the light of their past records, has kept his reputation and personal life unclouded by any marks of ill-repute, he has now entered the armed service of the country, gladly, voluntarily, and willingly.

The negroes are as a whole conducting themselves as any other group of thoroughly patriotic Americans.

Consequently, everyone regrets the occurrence at Alexandria and trusts that steps will be immediately taken to forestall any further incidents of the kind.

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

Facts Of Louisiana Soldier Riots Revealed By Investigation; Army Reports It Is Carrying On Probe

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In a statement issued Friday, the War Department announced that its investigation of the shooting and beating of 29 Negro soldiers in a clash with white police and white M. P.s in Alexandria, La., revealed that "civilian policemen and one military policeman indulged in indiscriminate and unnecessary shooting."

The War Dept. report said: "On Saturday night, January 10, there occurred in Alexandria, Louisiana, a riotous disturbance involving colored soldiers and civilians and members of the military and civilian police forces. Investigation was instituted immediately by the Third Army Command and by the Inspector General at the direction of the Secretary of War. "Twenty-nine colored soldiers were injured, three of them critically. All are improving, ten having already returned to duty. "Preliminary reports indicate that although a show of force may have been justified to disperse the exciting crowd which gathered when a colored soldier resisted arrest by a military policeman, nevertheless, civilian policemen and one military policeman, indulged in indiscriminate and unnecessary shooting. The investigation is continuing and efficiencies in military police control are being studied carefully with a view to appropriate action in this case and the elimination of basic and correctible causes which might otherwise re-

61-1942
Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

The Louisiana Incident

THE WAR Department announced that state and city police indulged in indiscriminate and unnecessary shooting in the recent riot at Alexandria, Louisiana, when more than a score of colored soldiers were wounded.

The city and state police deny this. Capt. Houston D. Green of the state police force said that "it is our duty to protect the citizens of Louisiana and all of our actions at the riot were directed to that end." Capt. Green, of course, is simply trying to shirk responsibility. So far as his attempt to "protect the citizens of Louisiana" he is obviously in error unless the citizens of his state can best be protected by malicious and unwarranted attacks on colored soldiers. If it is a protection of the citizens of his state to beat, shoot, and tear gas Negro troops without any reason who are preparing to fight for their country, then he is correct in his interpretation.

Capt. Green, if he would tell the truth, would reveal a flagrant disregard for the rights and treatment of colored soldiers, especially from the North, by his men when they are training in the South. If he would tell the truth he would tell the War Department that he was not concerned about the treatment accorded colored soldiers because he had good reason, based on prior precedents, that the War Department or no other department would do anything about his treatment of colored soldiers.

If he would tell the truth and the factors that made it easy for him to indulge in indiscriminate and unnecessary shooting he would, undoubtedly, tell the War Department that in the matter of the Arkansas incident when colored troops were driven from the public highway and bludgeoned while machine guns were trained on them by the Arkansas state police no one was made to suffer for it and he viewed it as an implied invitation to commit similar acts.

The War Department itself cannot be absolved from all blame with respect to the malicious treatment of colored soldiers in the South. It cannot be absolved from blame for the reason that it has permitted the South to indulge in such undemocratic tactics without doing anything effective to discourage it.

It is unfortunate that our national gov-

ernment refuses to make the "citizens of Louisiana" and all other southern states realize that soldiers must be respected. It is unfortunate that our national government refuses to make the "citizens of Louisiana" and all other southern states realize that the army uniform must be respected whether it is worn by a gentile, Jew, Negro or an African chimpanzee.

We hope that the Louisiana incident will awaken in the minds of public officials of the national government the fact that it is more than imperative that immediate steps be taken to punish those who so flagrantly participated in the indiscriminate shooting and discourage further acts of violence committed against colored soldiers lest the morale of Negroes for this war reach an all-time low.

LOUISIANA

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

La. Whites Alarmed By Courage Shown By Negroes During Riot

ALEXANDRIA, La., (AP)—White people of this section are greatly alarmed over the courageous stand which is being taken in resentment to the brutal attack made by white civilians, white civilian police, state troopers, plainclothesmen and white M.P.'s upon unarmed Negro M.P.'s, soldiers and civilians last Saturday night.

Alexandria whites are fear-stricken for the following four reasons:

1—They fear Negroes, including soldiers—plan reprisal in return for the attack made upon them last Saturday night (The soldiers blandly and bluntly told them on being driven like dumb cattle as they left Saturday night: "We are going but not because we want to go. You caught us unarmed this time, but we promise you we'll be back, we'll be armed and we'll 'clean you out'.")

County Responsible

2—That the city and county will be held financially responsible for the face value of every \$5,000 or \$10,000 policy carried by any soldier who dies as a result of being injured in the riot.

3—That some of the white civilians, civilian police and state troopers may have to spend many years behind penitentiary bars for their unwarranted parts in the riot.

4—That Alexandria will be put "off limit" for the soldiers in Camps Beauregard, Claiborne and Livingston who spend thousands of dollars with local business firms.

One white ice cream place on Lee street which heretofore did a huge business among Negroes was reported to have sold "only four ice cream cones" here all day Wednesday. Many white firms in the district are planning to close up at once.

150 Negro Soldiers Jailed

Nov 3 - 1942

New Orleans, Nov. 2 (AP)—Approximately 150 Negro soldiers spent the night in police cells and were placed under military arrest here today after a riot last night over arrest of one of their number in a beer parlor.

Three officers, thwarted in their attempt to arrest the soldier on a disorderly conduct charge, sounded a riot call and city and military police and members of the naval shore patrol converged on the scene and rounded up the rioters. The soldier first arrested escaped and scores of soldiers and civilians joined in a general fight to prevent officers from rearresting him.

Chicago Defender Chicago, Illinois Bans Life Magazine With Housing Riot Photos

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The March 16 issue of Life magazine was banned from New Orleans' newsstands last week because of the picturesque display of the Sojourner Truth housing riot in Detroit. Local white people were ashamed of the incident and stated that they were afraid its distribution locally would create race friction.

Several months ago a group of white people attempted to have the St. Bernard project here changed from Negro to white occupancy, but the move was blocked by local housing authority after conferences with the United States Housing authority.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WHICH BATTLEFIELD?

The recent riot in Alexandria, La., in which 28 Negro soldiers and civilians were wounded, is a recurrence of racial strife which, despite America's herculean task in the actual prosecution of war, has not yet been checked. Though this is the first incident of its kind to have come to public notice since the attack on Pearl Harbor, there had been scores of such ugly incidents in the twilight of peace that preceded the black treachery of Japanese militarists.

The frequency and magnitude of these clashes had so aroused public resentment and criticism that Washington authorities were compelled to take due notice of a situation that had been too long neglected. The public was led to believe that appropriate and positive measures had been taken to prevent aggravating repetition of the incidents.

Whatever may be the facts in the Alexandria riot, whether overbearing white military police exceeded their authority, or whether the Negro soldiers involved committed some infraction of the law which was disturbing to the peace of the community or not, we are not attempting at this time to pass judgment. But the bold fact which stares us in the face is that the War department having had knowledge of the possibilities of these clashes—has done nothing to remedy the conditions that breed these outbreaks.

Here we are at war and the blood of Negro soldiers is being spilled not on the battlefield where America is engaged in a death grapple with a powerful enemy, but on the field of racial antagonism and prejudice. Can the War department, can America afford such an exhibition in these times of stress and strain? If so, on which battlefield shall the Negro fight?

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

La. Police Shoot Down Five Colored Soldiers In Riot

ALEXANDRIA, La. — At least five colored soldiers were believed shot, two of them seriously wounded, in a clash here with 60 white military police, 20 white city police and ten white state police who used tear gas and firearms freely.

The colored soldiers, about 3070 of them, were in the city the day after pay day for simple recreation. All were unarmed and the group had its own colored military police and were in the colored neighborhood.

According to the reports, the white military police, a so-called "roving patrol" of 60 men looking for trouble, entered the colored area and created the riot by arresting one of the colored men who should have been under the jurisdiction of the colored military police. Immediately a free-for-all fight broke out and the whites summoned more armed police.

In spite of the fact that the colored soldiers were without weapons, the fight lasted half an hour as fully 500 soldiers joined in the fracas. No reports were issued on the number of whites injured and at the conclusion all of the colored troops were ordered back to camps. Many colored civilians joined in the fight to help their soldier boys but few details were immediately given as to their injuries or arrests.

The Alexandria riot is only one of several that have resulted here in the south between colored troops and white police.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

5 WOUNDED IN RIOT AT ALEXANDRIA

ALEXANDRIA, La., Jan. 15—Five Negro soldiers were shot—two seriously wounded—in a street clash here Saturday between 500 race troops on leave from Camp Claiborne and a band of 60 roving white military policemen. Army officials immediately clamped a censorship on all news and the names of the men involved were withheld from civilian police.

It is rumored that Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, Inspector General's Office, is here investigating the matter for the War Department. General Davis, only Negro holding that rank in the armed service, has been on an inspection tour of the South and is believed that he was immediately ordered here.

From reliable information it appears that about 3,000 soldiers were in the city after pay day. They were being policed by colored military police and things were rather quiet until the roving patrol of white MP's came into the colored section apparently "looking for trouble." They arrested a colored soldier and the other race troops, resenting their presence, took the matter in hand and a free-for-all broke out.

A riot call was issued and state troopers, city policemen and MP's quelled the disturbance and sent all the 3,000 soldiers back to camp. Chief of Police George C. Gray said it was possible that some colored civilians were hit in the heavy exchange of shots.

Efforts to verify if General Davis was at the scene of the trouble met with cold response at the Washington office of the Inspector General. The only information that could be obtained was, "General Davis is out of town and his movements and orders are military secrets."

Afro-american
Baltimore, Maryland

Smart-Aleck MP Blamed for Trouble

ALEXANDRIA, La.—A smart-alecky white military policeman has been blamed for an outbreak here Saturday night in which 28 soldiers and two civilians, one a woman, were injured. Four of the soldiers who were shot were reported in a serious condition.

Orders from Fifth Army Corps Headquarters immediately after the disturbance, restricted colored soldiers to Camps Livingstone and Claiborne, both near here.

Roughed Up Soldier
Trouble began, it was reported when a white military policeman used unnecessary roughness in arresting a colored soldier in front of a local theatre.

When some of the soldier's comrades objected to the manner in which he had been handled, the MP called for help. Some sixty other military police, twenty city officers and ten State troopers joined in the affair, attempting to disperse some 3,000 soldiers and as many local civilians who came to the aid of the uniformed men.

Bullets, bricks and tear gas bombs were used and 15 saloons and cafes in a four-block area were closed as a result of the battle. Colored troops were ordered to the bus station, loaded into buses and sent back to their camps.

May Frances Scales, 22-year-old civilian, was wounded in the hip by a stray bullet. Her condition is said to be satisfactory. The other casualty involved an injured finger of a state policeman who said he incurred it while hitting a soldier on the head with a flashlight.

Although no official comment was made, it was reported that ringleaders of the colored in-

volved in the disorder will face court martial.

THE NEGRO SCENE

News that came Monday of a near-riot of alarming proportions last Saturday at Alexandria between colored and white members of the U. S. armed forces stationed at Camp Livingston near that city was bad news to many an American

citizen, white and colored.

Apparently, the situation was caused by the attitude of certain colored soldiers in the camp toward white authority. The negroes involved were inhabitants of northern states in peace-time, and it was an ill-advised mistake on the part of the War Department ever to have stationed them in the deep south.

The recent news about the colored inhabitants of the United States with reference to their war activities had been uniformly good prior to this piece of very bad news.

Joe Louis, the champion fighter of the world and one of the all-time greats of the prizefighting game, has been responsible for a good deal of the improved attitude toward the negro. A clean, straight Alabama boy, who, despite managers who are more or less shady in the light of their past records, has kept his reputation and personal life unclouded by any marks of ill-repute, he has now entered the armed service of the country, gladly, voluntarily, and willingly.

The negroes are as a whole conducting themselves as any other group of thoroughly patriotic Americans.

Consequently, everyone regrets the occurrence at Alexandria and trusts that steps will be immediately taken to forestall any further incidents of the kind.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Resented Attitude Of 3 Cracker Cops; Riot Fires Flared

NOV 7 - 1942

(Special to the Tribune)

NEW ORLEANS, La.—When three "cracker" policemen tried to arrest one of their companions, approximately 150 Negro soldiers resented the cops' attitude and a general fight ensued.

Before the fight had progressed far, however, the soldiers were outnumbered by police, military police and members of the naval shore patrol stationed near the scene of the fighting.

Thrown In Jail

All the Negro soldiers thrown into jail were forced to spend the night there. The next morning about 80 of them were turned over to their commanding officers for "disciplining."

Military police said that four of the soldiers had been charged by military authorities with "inciting a riot."

The Negro soldiers were in a beer garden when the "cracker cops" tried to arrest one of their companions on a disorderly conduct charge.

Soldier Escapes

And when the others attempted to stop them, the police sounded a riot call and extra police, military police and the shore patrol converged on the scene and overpowered the Negroes.

The soldier first arrested broke out of a police car and escaped, and scores of soldiers and some civilians joined in a general fight. Several clashes followed and many combatants suffered minor wounds and bruises.

—A Colored Judge—

61-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

LOUISIANA

Blames War Department's Jim Crow Policy For Soldier Riot In South

FEB 7 - 1942

ALEXANDRIA, La.—No incident in recent years better dramatizes the danger inherent in the policy of the government's various armed services than the riot which occurred here two weeks ago.

In a sense it was a good thing to have happened, especially at this time. It was the best and most effective argument that can be made against the policy of exclusion, segregation and discrimination which is a part of all plans which have to do with Negroes in either the army or the navy.

A year from now, it may be too late for the government to attempt to democratize the army and the navy. Their organizations may be too static by then.

South American allies of this nation which have a large percentage of dark skinned people in their population may by that time have begun to doubt the motives of the United States which has proclaimed itself as leader in a fight to preserve democracy, yet penalizes a tenth of its population merely because of color.

Uncle Sam's Achilles' heel is his caste system which paralyzes his two main arms of defense. For him who would sabotage morale in the United States, no better starting point could be found than the riots, the lynching, the general abuse and differentials in treatment and respect in the nation's armed forces.

It was no group of radicals in New York several weeks ago who in answer to Judge William Hastie's query as to whether Negroes are fully behind the government's war program answered a decisive "No."

And the reason for that reaction is no deep dark mystery. It's the hard headedness of army and navy leadership which is determined to ignore the plea of Negroes for their rightful privileges in a democracy.

No matter who fired the shots which wounded 28 Negro soldiers here, regardless of who wielded the clubs which bruised the skulls of hundreds of Negro troopers, Secretary of War Henry Stimson

and Navy Secretary Frank Knox inevitably have the same responsibility as congressmen are now seeking to place as a result of the Pearl Harbor tragedy.

Time and again, committees of Negroes have at their own expense gone to Washington to warn these men of the dire consequences by discrimination, exclusion and segregation.

Negro newspapers have echoed in stentorian tones what every Negro believes and feels in his heart: "I can't conscientiously fight for democracy in a jim crow army, or as a messman in the navy, or in one pitiful unit of the air corps. I can't even get into the marine corps. My fight is here, not over there."

Negro editors were invited to Washington by the War Department to discuss certain phases of this problem. Even though asked to pay their own way, their interest was great enough for each to do that.

They let army officials know in no uncertain terms that they didn't approve of a projects jim crow division. They complained of other abuses.

Last week jim crow as a principle in the army was further entrenched by the organization of two jim crow divisions and a second jim crow air unit.

The President, the army, the navy know what Negroes want. They have chosen to ignore it, so we have riots, bloodshed within our own ranks.

Negroes would be expected to cry out first and loudest in protest of these abuses. Negroes are the victims. But right-thinking whites, too, find the situation odious and inconsistent with our claims to the title of "the world's greatest democracy."

Penn Kimball, in an analysis of the riot written for PM, New York daily, had the following to say:

"The shooting and beating of 28 northern Negro soldiers here two weeks ago was ordained long ago when the army took on the job of enforcing discrimination against the men who wear its uniform.

"It was bound to happen, then or later, there or in some other southern army encampment. But in Alexandria, it couldn't miss.

"You can blame coincidence, perhaps, that the provost marshal for the area was Maj. Ray McKnight, a southern reserve officer who had been living in Alexandria 12 years, married a local girl and shared the local attitude toward Negro soldiers from the North. Maybe it was just unlucky that the decision fell upon him whether to call in local police during a dispute between Negro and white soldiers. At any rate, he called them and 12 Negro soldiers paid for it with bullets in their bodies.

"But it was no split-second decision that brought Negro troops from New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania into this area and, presumably, some one deliberately worked out the code by which the army looked out for their welfare.

"The code is simple enough.

"Negro soldiers are prohibited from loitering in any part of the main business and entertainment section of "white" Alexandria. White MPs, stationed at every corner, shoo them along into the city's "Little Harlem," a shoddy, poverty-ridden area almost devoid of recreational facilities.

"The army pursues this policy of segregation to the extent that white soldiers are not allowed in the Negro quarter of town except on special pass.

"The military policing of soldiers in town is supposedly done on the theory that white MPs patrol the main part of the city and Negro MPs the Jim Crow section.

"The white MPs are equipped with manufactured billies, 45 pistols and are organized into a specially-trained military police company.

"The Negro MPs have no firearms and the clubs they carry are rudely fashioned and inoffensive-looking. There is no Negro military police company; the MPs are detached from ordinary units for temporary police duties.

"I asked the chief of staff of the Fifth Army Corps, Col. John H. Knuebel, why firearms were not issued to the Negro police. He told me that there probably were not enough to go around.

"An officer at Camp Claiborne had informed me that Negro MPs there had been issued pistols at first which had been taken away after local protests.

"I asked the chief of staff if he had heard of arms being taken away from Negro military policemen. He hadn't, but said the reason might have been that the Negro soldiers kept losing the guns.

"The result of the army's discrimination in the arming of MPs in Alexandria has been that white MPs go into the Negro section to make arrests whenever there is any serious trouble.

That is just what happened the night of January 9, and the consequence was a pitched battle between the white MPs and the men they habitually hustle out of the center of Alexandria.

"The Negro soldiers from the North stationed here say they don't mind the insults from civilians half so much as being pushed around by white MPs wearing the same uniform as theirs. There was a long-time anger inside the soldiers who saw a white MP seize custody of a Negro MPs prisoner the night of January 9. It bubbled over into fighting madness.

"The grudges nursed by the 17,000 Negro troops locked into camp after the Alexandria riot won't be dissipated if the army doesn't come clean with them after its investigation."

There are more immediate reasons why the Alexandria riot was inevitable. Unrest has existed here almost since the arrival of the first Negro troops.

Only recently two Negro soldiers were slain near here.

Pvt. David J. Franks was slain here last October 19 and Pvt. Arthur Cleveland was killed November 5 at Flenmora, La. The circumstances surrounding their deaths and the official explanation were so unsatisfactory that on November 25 the Educational Missionary association composed of leading Alexandria ministers, sent a letter to President Roosevelt asking a complete investigation and reminding him that democracy should begin at home. It was signed by 18 ministers.

It has also been pointed out that the presence here of northern Negro troops sent south for training is not totally responsible for the race trouble. Many Negroes born and reared in the South are as much opposed to the typical southern white treatment given Negroes as are those from the North.

Because many are being called upon to defend democracy, they are insisting upon better treatment here at home. If a Negro is called upon to risk his life along with white soldiers, he wants the same consideration as white soldiers get. This feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction is constantly growing.

Beatings of Negro soldiers by white military and civilian police have been fairly frequent here and in Oakdale, about 50 miles away, and Glenmora, 20 miles distant, residents say.

There has also been trouble with northern white soldiers who offended southern tradition by going about openly with colored girls. City officials halted this by placing colored girls under arrest and forcing them to produce health certificates, publishing their names in the Alexandria Daily Town Talk.

In a "memorandum to the press" issued January 23, the War Department justified the use of force by white civilian and military police and attempted to clear the army by placing responsibility on the civilian police.

The "memorandum" in full follows:

"On Saturday night, Jan. 10, there occurred in Alexandria, La., a riotous disturbance involving colored soldiers and civilians and members of the military and civilian police forces. Investigation was instituted immediately by the Third Army Command and by the inspector general at the direction of the Secretary of War.

"Twenty-nine colored soldiers were injured, three of them critically. All are improving, 10 having already returned to duty. There is no presently apparent sentiment for reprisals or revival of disorder.

"Preliminary reports indicate that although a show of force may have been justified to disperse the excited crowd which gathered when a colored soldier resisted arrest by a military policeman, nevertheless, civilian policemen and one military policeman indulged in indiscriminate and unnecessary shooting. The investigation is continuing and deficiencies in military police control are being studied carefully with a view to appropriate action in this case and the elimination of basic and correctible causes which might otherwise result in future disorders."

Little did they realize at the time, but perhaps one of the worst things for this little town economically was the riot which has resulted in Alexandria being designated as off limits for the approximately 35,000 soldiers quartered at Camps Beauregard, Claiborne and Livingstone.

They had brought prosperity to this town and since their arrival many new businesses had been opened to accommodate them. The city is losing thousands of dollars weekly while the ban lasts.

One sees an occasional soldier here, but it's not like the pre-riot

days. One Lee street boom business, a tavern, has closed its doors which may never reopen. Meanwhile the tight-lipped army proceeds with what it says is an investigation — an investigation which, if it is like those of the Bragg and Arkansas incidents—will be suppressed.

Army Justifies Force In Alexandria Riot, Puts Blame On Civilian Police

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In what is described as a "memorandum for the press" the War Department this week gave an incomplete report of the riot which occurred in Alexandria, La., January 10, between white civilian and military police and Negro troops and civilians.

After justifying the use of force in dispersing the crowd, the memorandum places responsibility for the riot on "civilian policemen and one military policeman who indulged in indiscriminate and unnecessary shooting."

While no mention was made of fatalities reported in several letters from soldiers at both Camp Claiborne and Livingstone where the Negro soldiers involved are stationed, it did admit that 29 troopers, all Negroes, were injured.

Three of them were injured critically the report continues, but adds that "all are improving, 10 having already returned to duty."

"There is no presently apparent sentiment for reprisals or revival of disorder," the memorandum continues.

Concluding, the memorandum declares that "the investigation is continuing and deficiencies in military police control are being studied carefully with a view to appropriate action in this case and the elimination of basic and correctible causes which might otherwise result in future disorders."

The investigation is being conducted by the Third Army command and the inspector general at the direction of Secretary of War Stimson.

ALEXANDRIA QUIETS DOWN AS INVESTIGATION PROCEEDS

ALEXANDRIA, La. — (ANP) — Negro soldiers are coming to town again and conditions are comparatively quiet, as the investigation into the recent riot proceeds.

The army has issued a statement blaming the white military policeman who called for civilian police and charged that the civilian police of Alexandria did the indiscriminate shooting which wounded 30 colored soldiers from Camp Livingstone and Camp Claiborne.

The "Cool Spot," operated by the parents of High School Principal D. F. Ilos, one of the Negro businesses involved in the riot, is open

and doing business as usual.

Alexandria always has been known unfavorably insofar as its race relations are concerned and its policemen have a reputation for brutality and meanness.

Leading white citizens, resenting the army statement, banded together to send reports to large daily papers throughout the country denying that Alexandria police fired uselessly.

Colored people here are certain the reasons there are no murder charges against Alexandria police is because they are notoriously poor shots.

PRESIDENT ASKED TO INVESTIGATE RACE RIOT

NEW YORK. — (ANP)—Charging that Negro morale has been seriously damaged as a result of the recent shooting of Negro soldiers in Louisiana, the Union for Democratic Action through its president, Dr. Frank Kingdon, released Wednesday the text of a telegram to President Roosevelt urging him to direct the secretary of war to make a full report on the incident.

The facts included in the telegram to the President were based on the findings of an on-the-spot investigation arranged by a group of writers and actors who recently staged a "Salute to Negro Troops" in New York under the auspices of the stage and screen division of the Fight for Freedom committee.

The group, which dispatched a representative to Alexandria, included Louis Schaffer, executive secretary of the stage and screen division; Ben Hecht, William Agar, Burgess Meredith, John Hammond Jr., and Rose Keane.

The committee's investigation showed that white military police enforced discrimination against Negro troops stationed in the area and that Negro military police had been denied the right to carry firearms.

According to the committee, the battle between unarmed Negro soldiers and police authorities carrying pistols, riot guns, clubs and tear gas bombs occurred after a dispute between a white and a Negro member of the military police.

Army authorities have refused to make any statement on the riot after confining all Negro troops in the area to camp, the committee charged.

"This action, following the wound-

ing and beating of members of the U. S. armed forces, has had serious results on the morale of Negro troops and the Negro civilian population, and constitutes a threat to Negro morale all over the country at a time when national unity is most necessary," the telegram said.

Dr. Kingdon, in statement issued at the offices of the Union for Democratic Action, pointed out that "at a time when we are engaged in an all-out effort to overthrow the totalitarian forces bent on destroying liberty, it is a mockery to treat Negroes with the same means employed by the fascist powers. Unless the Negroes of this country are granted their democratic rights, it is idle to expect them to participate wholeheartedly in the struggle to defend democracy."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Whites Wrecked Section

Negroes Say M. P.'s
Looted Area During
Riot

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Brigadier-General Benjamin O. Davis arrived here on a "routine inspection visit" following the riots here between military police and soldiers from Camp Livingstone and Claiborne two weeks ago.

Many soldiers were hurt and civilians injured in one of the most serious race riots since the selective service system was established and the great army camps set up.

The scene of the turbulent outburst between white officials and Negro soldiers was laid in the heart of the Negro district in Alexandria, allegedly growing out of a white officer's clubbing of a Negro soldier in the front of Ritz theatre on a claim of non-payment of admission to the theatre. The clash served to climax what it

is contended has been a mounting wave of mistreatment by white military and civilian police of colored soldiers. Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis arrived here soon after the riot, presumably on a routine visit, but was expected to probe the situation.

NAACP Raps Policies
The Alexandria NAACP branch voiced condemnation against the "short-sighted policies of the War Department in their refusal to order the arming of efficient colored MP's who would be fully competent to maintain law and order in the colored sections of the city." The NAACP declared: "It is contradictory and hypocritical to fight Fascism abroad and at the same time allow it to be practiced within our own territorial boundaries, when it is our avowed national policy to carry the 'four freedoms' into every nook and corner of the world, including the reactionary south."

According to reports gleaned from witnesses to the open clash, the soldier, whom it was claimed had not paid admission to the theatre refused to be arrested and the officer began clubbing him. Resenting the treatment of their fellow chum, others joined in. Civilian officers, state officers and civilians joined in the fight. Military police called police headquarters, where M.P. reinforcements were stationed and secured additional help.

Scores Wounded
In the prolonged clash, which lasted about two hours, scores of white and colored citizens were wounded. Unconfirmed reports state that several Negro soldiers were killed. One woman, May Frances Scales, shot by a white civilian policeman, is now in a critical condition at Huey Long hospital here.

Wholesale damages were wreaked upon Negro businesses. David Iles, principal of Peabody High school, was one of the businessmen who suffered not only damage to his business but also from a beating administered by a civilian officer, because he inquired why he should close his cafe.

One report has it that the Dixie grill, operated by Negroes, was ransacked by white officers and the cash register and approximately \$85 taken. Several hundred Negro soldiers in the grill were allegedly fired upon. Negro women were beaten, kicked and thrown out.

In the melee, Negro PM's had improvised billies; white MP's, guns and loaded billies, while the "hot polloi" swarmed through the Negro district in a four-block area on Lee street bounded by Seventh and Thornton streets.

Round Up 3000
Over 3,000 Negro soldiers were rounded up by civilian, state, military police, who carted them off to their respective camps and restricted them from leaving.

Eyewitnesses say Negroes used bricks, bottles and sticks, being unarmed. However, much damage was done, since telephones and light were put out.

One city bus driver allegedly gave a white civilian his gun and told him to "kill all 'n—s' you can." It was also said that some unarmed Negroes "beat the hell" out of some whites.

Scare The Yankees
Belief persists that white civilians sought to instill fear into Negro soldiers from New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois stationed at the two camps. Chief of Police C. C. Gray, stated when the shooting started he gave Lee street "a wide berth."

Shots were heard blocks away. "Bullets were whistling and bricks were flying," one spokesman said. "The Japs might as well have been attacking as far as I was concerned. I ducked."

However, the other side of the story is that Alexandria has considerable friendly whites who resent the riot. Many claim their businesses are being seriously hurt by restricting Negro soldiers from Alexandria.

There is a \$62,000 USO center almost completed for Negro soldiers in Alexandria manned by a full and capable staff. The center is considered one of the nation's finest. However, although the town now seems quiet, there is evidence of a smouldering resentment to mistreatments accorded soldiers, which makes future probabilities unpredictable.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Stimson Told Men In Uniform Need Protection

NAACP Cites
Shooting Of
Soldiers in La.

NEW YORK CITY. — (S N S) — Until the Army gives exact and equal treatment to all soldiers in uniform, and until it protects Negro soldiers from beatings and shootings in prejudiced southern communities, the nation can expect only bitter resentment and low morale from Negro citizens.

This was the assertion of the N. A. A. C. P., in a letter to Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, about the riot at Alexandria, La., January 9, in which twelve Negro soldiers were shot by civilian police.

"This incident," the N. A. A. C. P. said, "is only one more in a succession of regrettable ones whose cumulative effect has been to demonstrate that the Army has abdicated in favor of local southern white

and shoot them down without hesitation."

in localities whose traditions and practices are designed deliberately to humiliate and insult them, and even to maltreat and kill them."

"We submit that these riots prove that the Army has adopted and is enforcing a social pattern in keeping with the mores of the small communities adjacent to the Army camps. The Army has taken thousands of Negro men from northern and eastern states, and placed them

of communities, but the military police, upon the slightest pretext, solicit the active assistance of civilian police, who have no regard for Negroes as men, or citizens, or soldiers of their country, and who

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Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

NEGRO DANCERS RIOT IN NEW ENGLAND CITY

By United Press.

CAHMBRIDGE, Mass., Aug. 7.—Fifteen hundred Negroes jam-packed into a ballroom, rioted inside and on the street for 90 minutes early today and were quieted only after police used tear gas shells to prevent rescue of 14 prisoners.

Police Sgt. William Curtin said some of the Negroes wielded razors and several persons were cut, either by the razors or by flying bottles and shattered windows. A soldier was treated for a slashed scalp at a hospital.

Police were told that the fighting started apparently when a Negro civilian and a Negro soldier swapped punches in an argument about a girl.

Mrs. Josephine Murphy, a police matron supervising the dance, received a punch in the eye that floored her when she tried to restore order. A Negro soldier was hurled 15 feet from a balcony landing on his head among battlers on the main floor. He was trampled before he could regain his feet.

After an hour-and-a-half struggle, police quieted the mob. About 500 were herded on buses and street cars and taken to the city limits under police escort.

MASSACHUSETTS

used

61-1942
Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

DETROIT FIGHT IS DEMOCRACY VS. HITLERISM

MAR 22 1942
Negroes, Whites
Against Site

DETROIT, Mar. 19—(ANP)—The fight over occupancy of the Sojourner Truth Defense housing project, which has become a racial conflict of national significance, started out as a neighborhood controversy in which Negroes and whites joined against the project, a study of the records show.

It was last summer that trouble arose when it became known that defense houses were to be built near the Conant Garden which is a sub-division of good Negro homes. It was protested by the Rev. Horace White, Negro member of the Detroit Housing commission on the basis that the project should instead be situated in the Eight Mile road section from which attempts had been made to evict Negroes, many of whom had temporary and inferior homes in an area near a good residential section which realtors wanted to clear and develop for white residents.

Negroes Join Fight

Negro homeowners who had formed the Conant Garden Community association protested the site also. They believed the project would be poorly constructed and designed primarily for transitory and migratory workers in the war industries here, thereby causing the value of their homes to depreciate. This was also understood to be the only part of the city where FHA would approve home construction loans for Negroes.

Calling a protest meeting, the community association invited white neighbors to join with them. These whites participated strongly and raised money for a three-man delegation to Washington consisting of two whites and a

colored attorney, Percival R. Piper, associated with the state attorney general's office, who was spokesman for the group.

For Mar 22 1942
At the capitol, the delegation was assured the housing units would not be for migratory workers but for Detroit residents, that the buildings would not be poorly constructed temporary dwellings, and that the government would not change its mind about location of this defense housing unit.

Both colored and white residents of the area accepted the decision at first and the controversy quieted down. The Catholic church went so far as to appropriate \$25,000 for the development of a Negro Catholic mission in that area which would draw primarily from occupants of the Sojourner Truth homes.

All would have been well had Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Detroit Black Legion Staged Riot Program

MAR 20 1942

Terrorist Organization Used Poles and Congressmen to Foment Outbreak

MAR 21 1942

BY EYEWITNESS

DETROIT, Mich., March 10.—Unsuspected as being colored, I was attracted to the scene of the Sojourner Truth Housing Project on Saturday morning, February 28. Anybody else in Detroit could have known that the Black Legion—the hybrid half brother of the Ku Klux Klan was going to make a bloody demonstration and the precise hour at which it was scheduled to reach its full fury. Mass meetings open to all whites had been held in the Polish section adjoining, with speakers from the ranks of the Polish Congressman representing the district frequently haranguing the crowds. Everybody who was interested including Mayor Edward Jeffries and the police officials knew what was to take place.

Washington Housing officials from Baird Snyder of the Housing Authority to the top fomented the

MICHIGAN

fanned race feeling by backing and filling for two months as to whether these model houses were to be mixed, all colored or all white. The suspense thus created added to the rising storm until the outbreak. The night before crosses were burned in Paradise Valley near the public school across the street from the project, at which 46 percent of the children are colored. A meeting was being held at the same time at which plans were perfected and each squad leader together with the sentries were assigned their work and post for the following morning. The police were asleep.

After the day of almost unhindered out-lawry and attacks on the caravans of tenants moving in, twilight eased the mob's furies. That night I attended the victory meeting of the Black Legion at which all the leaders reported their triumphs. Six white men present lamented the length to which the demonstration had gone and sought to advise extreme caution in the future. They were savagely set upon and beaten badly with the unanswered question: "Are you Nigger lovers?" Nothing has been done in the way of investigation or action to redeem the fair name of the Motor City and the home of Joe Louis.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier

March 31, 1942

Negro and the North

To The News and Courier:

If the Detroit race riot had occurred in Charleston, it would most likely have been considered by the North as an attempted lynching. Has the North, the defender of the negro and the great believer of things the South doesn't believe, gone back on its beliefs or did it ever actually believe what it has tried for a century to hammer into the South?

Judging by where the riot occurred, it would seem that the North's opinion of handling the negro problem was based entirely on theory. As long as the negro remained in the South, it was believed that he should not only be treated as an equal but allowed into our schools, churches and other public places. However, after the negro began his trek to this promised land of the North, instead of being welcomed into the bosom of Abraham (Lincoln), he was met with clubs and knives. What Sydney Smith, an English clergyman, said of benevolence seems to fit the North's opinion perfectly: "Benevolence is a natural instinct of the human mind.—When A (North) sees B (negro) in (supposedly) grievous distress, his conscience always urges

him to entreat C (South) to help him."

John C. Calhoun said that communities required different forms of government according to the type of people they had to deal with. "The progress of a people rising from a lower to a higher point in the scale of liberty is necessarily slow; and by attempting to precipitate we either retard or permanently defeat it." Is there any doubt why we are E. P. Number One of the United States? (E. P. is the abbreviation of Economic Problem and in certain cases Enemy of the Promised Land.) Perhaps Calhoun wasn't a crackpot after all.

Montesquieu gives us another good example of advancing too rapidly along the scale of liberty. In "Grandeur and Decadence of the Roman Empire", he said: "Cities and nations were now invited to Rome by the ambitious, to disconcert the suffrages, or influence them in their own favor; the public assemblies were so many conspiracies against the state, and a tumultuous crowd of seditious wretches was dignified with the title of Comitia." Montesquieu was speaking of Rome but the same statement could be applied to the South after the War of Secession. This writer, speaking of Rome, said, "She lost her liberty because she completed her work too soon."

Since Detroit has joined forces with the barbarians of America, said barbarians should present to her the entire works of John C. Calhoun. This city might be able to find a certain amount of "wisdom, instruction, and understanding".

"O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
And foolish notion."

—Robert Burns.

The above letter has no intention of professing any hatred of the negro or the North, but that had the South not fought for her rights after the War of Secession as she did, the liberties which the South (negroes as well as white) now enjoys would have been reduced to a far lower level than they were—how low one can only guess. (An isolationist may find doubts as to the wisdom of the "four freedoms").
CITIZEN.

Charleston.

Time
Chicago, Illinois
RACES

Two Sides of a Street

A long queue of determined-looking women clumped up & down before a Detroit Federal housing project. Their placard read: "We want White Neighbors." Some 500 of their men gathered purposefully on the east side of Ryan Rd., the border line between white & black neighborhoods.

The housing project had been christened Sojourner Truth Homes.* Built in the white section, the project was intended for Negroes. Protests grew so violent that officials changed their minds, said the 200 units would be for whites; then they changed their minds again, told Negroes to move in. Moving day came last week.

Two trucks full of furniture stopped just short of the deadline. Negroes gathered on the west side of Ryan Rd., scowling. Tempers mounted. A Negro armed with a shotgun stamped out on his front porch and exhorted his colleagues to march through. A news photographer tried to take his picture, but another Negro smacked him down in the snow. Young Negroes cracked up concrete blocks into pieces of nice throwing size. Bricks felled a cop, hit a white woman. Negroes tried to drive one truck through the line. The white men swarmed forward. Mounted cops had to use tear gas. A score were carried to the hospital more than 100 were hustled off to jail.

City officials in anxious conference with a Negro minister finally decided to call the whole thing off before Detroit had a full-dress race war. Said Police Commissioner Frank Eamans hopelessly: "There is no use moving these people in if you need an army to protect them."

Said one young Negro rioter: "The Army is about to take me to fight for democracy, but I would as leave fight for democracy right here. When you fight in the army for democracy you fight for something that is a long ways off kinda, but when we fight for democracy here we are fighting for our own self."

Said the rioters from the east side of Ryan Road: "Let them stay on their own side of the street."

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

TENEROWICZ, DETROIT HOUSING TROUBLEMAKER, AGAIN HITS N. A. A. C. P.; ASKS CONGRESS PROBE

**Says Many Leaders of Organization Have
Long Standing Communist Affiliation**

WALTER WHITE DEMANDS APOLOGY

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—Backed into a corner by the continued pounding at the Detroit housing situation, Rudolph Tenerowicz, congressman from that city, took the time of the House last week to deliver an address smearing the N. A. A. C. P. and individuals whom he branded as Communists. After his ranting, the congressman demanded an investigation from the house with a committee of five appointed by the speaker of the house which would have power to investigate and to report back by July 1 its findings.

The action of Atty. General Biddle, who demanded and got the FBI interested in the case with the result that three whites were indicted by a federal grand jury, has won the praise of the millions comprising the minority groups in the country. It is reliably reported from confidential sources that the brave attorney general will go thru with his plans that Negroes should occupy these houses as originally intended, if he has to call in the U. S. Army to do so.

There has been some feeling that the mayor of Detroit and the governor of Michigan, working together, have declared they could furnish insufficient police or national guardsmen to protect Negroes in the project. Which leads the general public to believe they are loathe to assume the full duties of their offices and guarantee protection to the citizens who elected them.

Mr. Tenerowicz's speech roamed through the entire nauseating situation and there seems to be an attempt afoot to clear himself of his part in the proceedings, although it was this congressman who led the fight against Negro occupancy from the beginning, and it was to him that the protesting groups first went.

"I do not intend to apologize for any statement which I have made or quoted from reliable sources," he said in answer to Walter White's demand that he apologize for certain statements.

"However, I do say this - - that in looking over the roster of officials of the N. A. A. C. P. I do find names of some individuals who have long records of Communist affiliation."

The congressman then quoted other sources, Negro papers in Detroit, telegrams, letters, editorials, and finally went into a discussion of the "black cabinet."

Discussing an editorial which appeared in the Michigan Chronicle of Feb. 21 on the black cabinet, he said:

"I know of but one cabinet, the cabinet appointed by the President of the United States, and I am wondering who appoints this so-called black cabinet and who are its members?"

"Are other minority groups to follow the example and form their own cabinets?"

"Is this so-called black cabinet to projects are to be erected?"

"How much pressure was exerted on Messrs. Blandford and Keyserling by this agency?"

"Are these the individuals who have the ear of both Mr. Blandford and Mr. Keyserling?"

"Must the membership of the house consult this new agency, the black cabinet, regarding any and all racial questions involving their districts?"

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

Handmade Race Prejudice

The February 28 race riot at Detroit, generally described by the press as an expression of somehow understandable albeit unjustifiable indignation by white neighbors against Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth war housing project, is now revealed for exactly what it was—an organized piece of pro-Axis sabotage, a deliberate demonstration against democracy and unity. Three of the organizers of this armed attack on Negroes who were attempting to move peacefully into their new homes have been indicted by the federal government on charges of seditious conspiracy to hinder the execution of a law of the United States and of violating civil liberties; and two of these men, Parker Sage and Garland L. Alderman, are revealed to be officers of an organization which is disseminating pro-Axis propaganda. As for the "indignant white neighbors," a check of the license plates of cars present at the riot showed that many of them had come from as far as twenty-five miles away. These men are working for Hitler, and the just resentment of the Negroes can aid Hitler's efforts to split America unless we act immediately against intolerance and for democracy.

Racial harmony through full equality is not an impossible goal. In Oakland, California, a vital shipbuilding area, whites and Negroes are living together without friction in the Campbell Village housing project. Of the 154 families in the project a little more than half are Negroes, as is the project manager, William P. Butler. Encouraging also is the stand against racial discrimination in war housing projects taken by the War Workers' Housing Conference held recently in Los Angeles, a conference representing some two hundred thousand war workers, both CIO and AFL.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois
Estimate 1,500 Will Be on

Duty 30 Days.

MAY 6 - 1942

Lansing, Mich., May 5 [Special].—Maintenance of troops in Detroit to preserve order at the Sojourner Truth housing project is proving expensive, the state administrative board learned today. The project was the scene of race riots some weeks ago when white residents barred occupancy by prospective Negro tenants.

The board allocated \$190,182 to finance 1,500 troopers over a 30 day period—the amount asked by the auditor general's department.

Included in the guard contingent

the city not being equipped to handle the situation.

In the absence of National Guard units, all of which are in federal service, the state troops constituted the only force at the governor's command. Their mobilization last week resulted in preventing further disturbances when a number of Negro families were moved into the area.

Guard Training Funds.

The board sought to make certain of careful spending by the University of Michigan and Michigan State college on summer wartime training programs, instructing the defense finance committee to supervise expenditures by the schools.

The university has been allotted \$200,000 and the state college \$40,000 from the \$5,000,000 emergency war fund appropriated by the legislature this year. A request was received for release of the university's allocation, but board members said an inquiry into how the funds are to be spent must be pursued first by the board's committee.

Dr. Eugene B. Elliott, superintendent of public instruction, objected to a "harsh" attitude toward the schools, remarking: "We have been getting these institutions to work with us nicely [on the war training program] and we don't want to upset this situation."

are 10 Detroit companies and 14 from outstate. Most of the guardsmen have families or are beyond the draft age, and expected to be called for service only in event of war emergencies within the state. Many are said to be employees of war production plants.

Board Forced to Act.

Board discussion brought the comment from Harry F. Kelly, secretary of state, that granting of the funds was mandatory inasmuch as the state troops were assigned to the task by Gov. Murray D. Van Wagoner, who has exclusive power to determine the need for their emergency use.

"This board has no power to pass on the necessity for the action," said Kelly.

Van Wagoner also has claimed that he had little discretion in the matter, since he was informed by Mayor Edward Jeffries of Detroit that state assistance in preserving order was vital,

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an extensive real estate development for whites adjoining the project and it is feared that the colored project will cause the property values to depreciate.

The political aspect of the situation also is an admixture of conflicting interests.

Mayor Jeffries, who was swept into office on the non-partisan ticket in the same reform wave which swept John Roxborough and former Mayor Reading into jail sentences, originally designated the project for colored.

Mayor Being Blamed

He is being blamed by colored citizens for not now taking a firm stand and forcing the issue, although he apparently has neither the support of the big money element nor the press. Solidly behind him, however, are the A.F. of L. and the CIO and all workers' groups.

It is believed that the manufacturing group has stated hands off because they relish what is being fanned up as a clash between white and colored labor.

This angle was sketched at an interracial mass meeting held at the Metropolitan Baptist Church Monday night when prominent speakers, headed by the Rev. Horace White, member of the Michigan State Legislature and a member of the Detroit Housing Commission, declared this was not a fight between the races but a fight between law and order and mob violence.

Can Klan Defy U.S.

"The issue now," said the speaker, "is to determine whether a group inspired by the Ku Klux Klan can defy the Federal Government."

At the mass meeting sponsored by the Sojourner Truth Citizens' Committee were displayed a number of bandaged and bruised citizens, some with eyes closed and heads crushed as exhibits of the mob's frenzy.

Money was raised to carry on the fight, which has already cost more than \$3,000, and all citizens holding contracts of occupancy were urged not to turn them in regardless of how badly they needed money. They will be cared for elsewhere from public funds until the issue is settled, it was decided.

A special delegation of organization leaders were dispatched to Washington to accompany Mayor Jeffries at a housing conference there Tuesday.

Birmingham Ala News
March 1, 1942

Angry Pickets Cause Negroes To Abandon Moving Into Project

Detroit Police Order Delay As Neighbors Hurt Two With Rocks

DETROIT (AP)—Mayor Edward J. Jeffries ordered postponement of an attempt to move Negro families into a defense housing project here Saturday as police were trying to disperse opposing crowds of white pickets and Negroes.

The action came soon after a brief skirmish at Ryan Road and Nevada Avenue, half a mile west of the housing project, which resulted in Patrolman Edward A. Koss and Miss Delores Homer, a white woman, being struck by flying rocks.

Three moving vans loaded with furniture had been parked near the intersection. Spokesman for the white people, who carried placards objecting to Negro occupancy of the project, said their group would go home if the vans were removed.

The Negro group began breaking up after an appeal by Horace A. White, Negro minister and a member of the Detroit Housing Commission.

Mayor Jeffries acted after conferring with Charles F. Edgecomb, director-secretary of the commission, and Police Commissioner Frank D. Eaman.

Eaman said that "there is no sense moving these people in if you need an army to protect them after they get in. If Washington wants to send soldiers to protect these people after they move in, that's up to them."

Jeffries said he would go to Washington Monday to discuss the matter with federal housing authorities who have held to their decision that the project is for Negro occupancy.

Police had appealed to authorities to postpone the scheduled moving of tenants into the dwellings after some 500 white pickets assembled at the project, which is named the Sojourner Truth Project.

Deputy Supt. Albert Siska and Inspector Chester E. Cox, of the police, informed housing officials they could not prevent violence if the Negro tenants insisted on moving in Saturday. They said the police could maintain order in the immediate vicinity but could not control picket groups at points several blocks distant.

White residents of the neighborhood surrounding the project have complained that Negro occupancy

Michigan

would depreciate the value of their homes.

The project contains 200 dwelling units and was constructed at a cost of \$1,000,000 to house defense workers from nearby plants.

Washington Post
February 28, 1942

Race Riot Flares At Detroit Defense Housing Project

DETROIT, Feb. 28 — (AP) — Police swung clubs and laid down a barrage of tear gas today to check a second outbreak of violence among Negroes and whites at the entrance of the million dollar Sojourner Truth Defense Housing project.

The second flareup came when a truckload of some fifteen Negro men carrying clubs three to five feet long broke through a police blockade. White pickets, fighting occupancy of the project by Negroes, chased the truck and felled the driver with a stone.

A general melee followed in which Negroes and several hundred white pickets and some 200 police—on foot and mounted—swung clubs and fists. Several persons were injured. Police finally fired tear gas to disperse the crowd, at least temporarily.

The pickets had refused to disperse despite Mayor Edward J. Jeffries' announcement that an attempt to move Negro families into the project would be postponed "until further notice."

At least 200 policemen—on foot, mounted, and in squad cars—blocked entrances to the 200-family housing unit as their superiors appealed to federal housing authorities to delay the scheduled occupation by Negro tenants. Baird Snyder III, acting administrator of the Federal Works Agency, designated the project for Negro occupancy several days ago.

Memphis Tenn Commercial Appeal
March 1, 1942

RACE RIOT DEVELOPS AT HOUSING PROJECT

White Pickets Prevent Occupancy By Negro Families

DETROIT, Feb. 28.—(UP)—Picket line skirmishes among negroes and white persons, checked by a police barrage of tear gas, Saturday blocked scheduled occupancy of the \$1,000,000 Sojourner Truth defense housing project by 24 negro families.

Sporadic fighting among some 200 negroes and about 500 white pickets determined to prevent the first negro families from moving into

the recently completed homes persisted despite an announcement of Mayor Edward J. Jeffries' decision to postpone occupation of the project "until further notice."

A force of some 200 policemen, swinging night sticks and firing tear gas bombs, halted the most serious outbreak when a truck, full of club-carrying negroes, smashed through the police blockade.

The first police tear gas bomb fired into the crowd of negroes that rushed toward the truck drew a shotgun barrage into the air from two negroes who had been seated on the porch of a house near the interstation leading to the project. The negroes fled before police could reach them.

Several attempts were made to persuade the negroes and whites to leave the project. However, the crowds remained, shouting taunts back and forth under the watchful eyes of the police.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE DETROIT RIOT

The long and unnecessary controversy over the occupancy of the Sojourner Truth housing project in Detroit, flared into a race riot last Saturday when white hoodlums using guns, knives and rocks gave battle to Negro families that attempted to move into the project.

This is obviously a situation that could have been prevented had the federal officials in Washington been positive and firm at the very outset of the controversy. Had they insisted on carrying out the original purpose for which the Sojourner Truth settlement was designed, the unjustifiable opposition to Negro tenancy would have been nipped in the bud. But under the pressure of misguided politicians, the housing administrators twice reversed their stand. This unpardonable vacillating has had the ugly effect of encouraging irresponsible white Detroiters to use violence as a means of settling the issue. To make matters worse, Mayor Jeffries of Detroit ordered police to halt any attempts to move Negroes into the housing project. The issue could have been settled right there and then by the simple procedure of affording police protection to the Negro families that had been selected for occupancy.

There was no need for Mayor Jeffries to fly to Washington to ask federal help in order to compose the dispute. Had he exercised good judgment, he would

have insisted on carrying out the latest decision of the housing administrators. The project was built for Negroes and was allocated to them. There is no

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Memorandum On Detroit Riot To Justice Dep't

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(SNS)

—The United States Department of Justice received a memorandum pertaining to the race riots in Detroit, Michigan, submitted by William H. Hastie and Thurgood Marshall on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. From usually reliable sources it was learned that the memorandum is receiving serious and favorable consideration.

Mr. Marshall went to Detroit, Monday, March 9, to make further investigation. The Department of Justice also notified the NAACP last week that U. S. Attorney John C. Lehr has been requested to make a report to the department on the rioting. The NAACP memorandum was submitted, Friday, March 6.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Jail 107 Negroes; 2 Whites

Federal Grand Jury Investigates Mob Violence

MAR 13 1942

DETROIT.—(By Wire to The Call)—The Sojourner Truth housing project remains unoccupied as officials bicker over whether local or federal protection shall be given to tenants attempting to enter the houses.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries went

to Washington last Thursday to confer with U. S. housing authorities and on Friday, John Blanford, director of the Federal Housing Administration, issued an order for Negro defense workers to occupy the million-dollar 200-unit project.

Monday, March 3, was set as the day when Negroes should move in but a controversy developed over how the tenants moving in would be protected.

In the meantime, a federal grand jury was summoned Tuesday, March 10, to probe the riot under orders from United States Attorney General Francis Biddle. Federal District Attorney John C. Lehr said that evidence of a conspiracy to deprive citizens of their constitutional rights in the defense housing project would be laid before the jury.

A Nazi Issue

Lehr said that further investigation may be necessary. Washington officials urged a quick solution, he said, after Nazis and Japanese radio propagandists had made use of the situation of February 28 when a white crowd prevented Negroes from moving into the project.

The conspiracy charge will be brought under section 19 of the United States criminal code of offenses against the civil rights of citizens, Lehr said.

On the night of the rioting, Ku Klux Klansmen burned a 20-foot cross near the Sojourner Truth project. President Roosevelt has been told by the National Negro Congress and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties that the riot was instigated by the Ku Klux Klan and "other fifth columnists, disrupting national unity and war production."

Ethan W. Thompson, president of the Detroit Housing Commission, said that "if the federal government wants Negroes to occupy the housing project, it will have to provide police to protect them."

Want U. S. Protection

"It is a government project," Thompson continued, "and the responsibility for moving in of tenants and their protection afterward also rests with the government."

"We certainly can't have people being killed there. The only authority that can handle the situation is the federal government."

Mayor Jeffries said at the time of the riot last week that it would require at least 3,000 policemen to move Negroes into the project. He said the city could not provide such a force.

When 24 Negro families attempted to move into the project Saturday, February 28, a crowd of whites attacked the moving vans with rocks and stones. Negroes gathered on one side of Ryan street and whites on the other

to hurling all kinds of weapons at each other.

107 Negroes Arrested

In the melee, more than 100 persons were injured. Although white persons started the disturbance, 107 of the 109 persons arrested were Negroes.

Attempts of members of the Detroit Housing Commission, Negro ministers and police to quell the disturbance were futile.

Charges against 20 Negroes charged with disturbing the peace were dismissed by Judge George Murphy. Others were to be tried March 11 on charges of felonious assault. The N.A.A.C.P. branch was securing bond and attorneys for the accused persons.

Paul Robeson, who gave a recital here Saturday night, was to have been the principal speaker at a protest meeting Sunday afternoon at the Bethel A.M.E. church.

The Rev. Horace A. White, the Negro member of the Detroit Housing Commission, led a delegation of more than 35 citizens to Washington several weeks ago to protest against the federal ruling that the project should be occupied by white persons. The ruling was reversed following that conference and the project assigned to Negroes. It was a Negro family started to move in following this order that the riot occurred.

The project was built originally for Negro defense workers. Later it was designated for whites and a debate over which racial group should occupy it waged for several months.

Amsterdam News

New York, N. Y.

The Watchtower

MAR 14 1942 By Roy Wilkins

I WENT to Detroit last week for a first-hand look at a city which had gone over to anarchy. A small mob of neighborhood hoodlums, armed with clubs and stones, successfully defied the United States Government and laughed at the police department. These hoodlums were so successful that they drove their mayor by plane to Washington, D. C., to call upon the Federal Government to help him solve a problem that any honest police captain and 100 bluecoats could solve in 20 minutes.



Mr. Wilkins

These Detroit anarchists, many of whom came to this country from Poland where they had been kicked around and spat upon all their lives and all the lives of their fathers before them, were defying the U. S. Government because, please God, they did not want black American citizens to live in a housing project built for them by the Government.

Two Polish Catholic priests, to the shame of their faith, led their parishes in agitating against American Negroes. They issued statements, and they wrote letters asserting that they wanted no

Negroes because they wanted their daughters safe from rapists. A Polish doctor who had some trouble with the courts in a local political fight involving graft, is now a Congressman, and in far-off Washington he arose on the floor of Congress and made a speech worthy of Bilbo.

U. S. Has Been Good

This country has been good to these people. It is now their country. It is also our country. It is also the country of those who came from Germany, Italy, Norway, Greece, Hungary, Holland and France. No Negroes should be throwing stones at Poles. No Poles should be throwing stones at Jews. No Jews should be throwing stones at Negroes. No "Nordics" should be throwing stones at others. This is America. No man is better than another just because he says so, or because he shouts dirty names louder than another, or because he is bigger and has a club, or because his name does not end in "wicz," or merely because he is white.

That is the American dream. Pretty much of a dream it is, but it is something at which to shoot. Congressman Rudolph Tenerowicz is not shooting at it. The Polish Catholic priests are not thinking about it (or about the brotherhood of man). The Polish neighbors in that Detroit district may, perhaps, be excused. There are so many contradictions in America. We say one thing in our Bill of Rights, but we wink our eyes and do something else. It must be confusing to a newcomer. "All men are free," we Americans say. Except black Americans. "Free and honest elections," we say. But we stuff the ballot boxes "Economy," we scream, "save the people's money from fan dancers and movie actors!" But when an Army official admits that what he calls "mistakes" cost the Government a cool 100 million dollars in building Army camps alone, nobody screams or even raises an eyebrow. Least of all Senator Harry Byrd, of Virginia.

Poles Form Mob

So those Poles in Detroit who formed a mob on Saturday morning, February 28, thought they were doing the American thing by keeping Negroes out of decent homes. They know that America makes a practice of kicking the Negro around. They know that nobody reads statistics and nearly everybody reads newspaper headlines. So Negroes, of course, are branded as rapists.

At the last information the U. S. Government was not backing down on its ruling that Negroes must go into the Sojourner Truth Housing project. It is now up to the city of Detroit to stamp out anarchy, establish law and order, and inch a few feet further toward the realization of the American dream. One thing is certain: The black Americans in Detroit (and Chicago and Cleveland and Toledo and New York and Philadelphia and St. Louis and Pittsburgh and Los Angeles and a hundred other places) are standing pat. They are willing to fight for their share of America. They will fight anybody, Japs, Nazis, Klansmen, policemen or soldiers. They are pretty tired of this whole line of fakery, cruelty and brutality. That, as the radio newscasters say, is the news from Detroit.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Detroit Housing

THE Detroit housing situation where white people of that city, under KKK influences, seek to prevent colored people from moving in a place which was constructed for Negroes is a scourge on democracy and should be ended by the national and state governments forthwith.

Without commenting on the fact that our national government should never have constructed a building for "just black people", it is timely to say that the government ought to stand behind its promises and not let a handful of white people who harbor ideas of nazism push it around and tell it what they are not going to permit the Federal government to do.

Negroes have asked many times what they may expect in this democracy that is consistent with the four freedoms expressed in a certain Atlantic charter sometime ago by the leading lights in the United Nations. In Detroit, as in other sections of the country, they are beginning to feel more and more dubious about whether they are ever remembered when folks, the other folks, of course, begin to discuss democracy.

They doubt that when the ideal of democratic principles is discussed the present day politicians do not think in the same terms as those signers of the Declaration of Independence who subscribed to a document which said "all men are created equal" although slavery was existing and continued to exist in the larger part of the country.

The enemy nations are taking advantage of the scisms in our democracy. They are using the American totalitarian vacuums to expose the fallacy of this democracy. They are thus using the Detroit situation as they did the Sikeston case in their efforts to reveal the seriousness of the overworked word of the United Nations.

America can ill afford to let the housing situation continue to exist. It can ill afford to again create another similar situation that makes such friction possible.

61-1942

MICHIGAN

Protest Brutality Of Police in Riot

U. S. Advice Sought
On Detroit Race Fight

By the United Press

DETROIT, March 2.—A citizens committee today protested the brutality of riot squad police who arrested 101 Negroes and three white persons during week-end skirmishes at a defense housing project in which tear gas was used to disperse rioters.

Some of the Negro families, prevented from becoming first tenants of the recently completed \$1,000,000 Sojourner Truth housing project by embattled white pickets, were housed temporarily in a slum-clearance project.

Meanwhile, Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, who announced during the heat of Saturdays fighting that occupation of the project would be postponed "until further notice," said he would go to Washington to confer with Federal Housing authorities.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Wilkins

To Scene Of Riot

MAR 13 1942
Crisis Editor
Finds Negroes
Discouraged

MAR 13 1942

DETROIT, Mich.—One of the striking revelations resulting from the riots here, February 28, over the occupancy of the Sojourner Truth housing project is that the American Negro is just about 'fed up' with talk of democracy and now demands some action."

This was the observation of Roy

Wilkins, assistant secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., who came here March 1, to consult with and pledge cooperation to the Citizens' Committee carrying on the housing fight.

"In eleven years of travelling for the N.A.A.C.P., and in 20 years of newspaper work, I have never found such bitterness on such a wide scale as I have found in Detroit," said Wilkins. "The cooler heads among our people are trying desperately to hold the situation in hand."

"They know that when there is violence between Negroes and whites, Negroes always lose because the police and the soldiers always join the whites against the Negroes.

"That is what happened in Detroit. Although whites started the riot and were armed with every kind of weapon, the police arrested 109 persons—two whites and 107 Negroes.

"Despite this, the rank and file of Negroes want to fight. They are tired of talking. They are rapidly coming to the point where they do not believe or trust any white person or any government institution."

Tore Up Draft Cards

"The Sojourner Truth riot came in the midst of war. The disgraceful action of the Detroit police department has made this housing project fight not only a national, but an international incident. Young Negroes here tore up their draft cards last Saturday—in public. One man got up in a public meeting and said he was of draft age and would probably be called to fight in Asia or Europe, 'but I will take my fighting and dying, if necessary, right here on the streets of Detroit for some democracy for my own people.'

"Another man came up before Judge George Murphy on a disorderly conduct charge in connection with the fighting at the project. He said to the judge: 'I have two boys in the U. S. army fighting for these people (the whites) and you can sentence me to any years you want, but when I get out I am going to start fighting again just where I left off.' The charge was dismissed for lack of evidence.

Cops Aided Whites

"One hour of good police work Saturday morning, February 28, would have prevented the riot, it is agreed here. The cops let the

whites form a mob, erect barricades across the street, stop moving vans containing furniture of Negro families seeking to move in, and beat and stoned Negroes. But when Negroes attempted to protect themselves and to break through the barricades, the cops went into action against them."

Protests and demands for action are pouring in upon Detroit and Washington officials from hundreds of individuals and groups over the country. The national office of the N.A.A.C.P. wired Attorney General Francis Biddle the day of the riot asking the Department of Justice to act. President Roosevelt has received many calls for firm action by federal authorities.

Here in Detroit a Citizens' Committee headed by the Rev. Charles Hill is meeting every day at noon at the Lucy Thurman Y.W.C.A. for luncheon and pep and strategy talks.

Picket City Hall

A picket line has been thrown about the City hall calling on the mayor for action. About 300 pickets were in line March 5. Neighborhood leaders are doing house to house work in the five main sections of Detroit. A running fight is being carried on by this committee which includes the local branch N.A.A.C.P. and dozens of other organizations, churches, labor unions, clubs, fraternities, lodges. Factional rivalry is being buried temporarily while an "all-out" fight is carried on to see that Negro families get what the United States government promised them—homes in the Sojourner Truth project.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

New Riot Quelled By Police

MAR 21 1942

DETROIT, Mich.—Evidence that the Ku Klux Klan had encouraged its members to picket the Sojourner Truth Housing project here, in an effort to prevent its occupancy by colored tenants, has been laid be-

fore United States Attorney General Biddle.

Last Tuesday Joseph Buffa, ring-leader of the anti-Negro group, was taken into custody, but was released the next day. Buffa's arrest was occasioned by a disturbance—the third—growing out of the arrest of one of 300 white pickets. Thirty policemen quelled the incipient riot by using tear gas.

No colored people were involved in this third disturbance, as the pickets announced their intention to be at the project "the next night and every night thereafter until we are assured that Negroes will not be allowed to occupy it."

In Washington, D. C., representatives of the National Negro Congress and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties took the matter directly to President Roosevelt, with a request that he intervene personally. These organizations charged that the riots were inspired by the KKK and Fifth Columnists, disrupting national unity and war production.

Urge Use Of Troops

The local Branch of the NAACP, through its president, Dr. James L. McLendon and a delegation, visited Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., to present a six-point program for a "peaceful solution" of the problem.

They suggested to Mayor Jeffries that "if necessary, federal troops be brought in to assure peaceful occupation of the Sojourner Truth Homes."

Grand Jury Probe

U. S. Dist. Atty. John C. Lehr has announced that evidence of a reported conspiracy to deprive citizens of their constitutional rights in the housing projects was being laid before a federal grand jury at the request of U. S. Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle. The inquiry was launched after Biddle charged that a conspiracy existed to prevent Negro lessees from moving into the homes, a government-backed project of the Detroit Housing commission.

According to accusations made by Atty. Gen. Biddle, 65 Negro families were scheduled to move in on Feb. 28, but early that morning the first two truckloads of their furnishings were destroyed by whites, and Negro stoned as they tried to protect themselves. Biddle also alleges that the Ku Klux Klan had encouraged its members to picket the development and that a large cross was burned nearby one night in the week prior to the scheduled moving in.

Frank Patton and Frederick Ful-

some, special assistants to the attorney general, will present the evidence gathered by investigators since Feb. 28 to the jury. Dist. Atty. Lehr stated that further investigation would be necessary and the conspiracy charge would be brought under Sec. 19 of the U. S. Criminal code of offenses against civil rights of citizens.

March 20, 1942

Negroes in Detroit

To The News and Courier:

Your editorial, as of March 18, "Strange to Southerners", while it may seem strange to most people living in the South, this situation is not strange to me. I am a former Detroiter, having resided there some fifteen years.

Former Governor Sluper signed what is now known as the "Equality Bill". This bill put the negroes on the same equal as the white race.

The negroes now have an organization known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This is a political organization that controls a large number of votes for which the men seeking to obtain a public office, are striving to control.

The colored people will and do encroach on the white people, or race, due to this fact.

The colored people mingle with the white race at public meetings, attend amusement parks, theaters, and ride all public conveyances. This is allowed them under the so-called "Equality Bill".

The colored race executing the limit of this bill, are determined to reside in sections of the city that heretofore have been restricted, which caused the near, citywide race riot of March this year, 1942. Let's prevent this from happening in the South.

ALBERT CLARK.
(Former Detroit Policeman).
Navy Yard, S. C.

March 18, 1942

Strange to Southerners

A "housing project" for negroes was opened in Detroit, and when the negroes were moving into it, white people objected to their coming into the neighborhood. Then was a "race riot" and several persons were injured. (There was a race riot in South Carolina in 1898 and has been none since that time—but Detroit is in Michigan.) In our part of the United States, the colored people like to live in neighborhoods together, and so do white people. The clashes of the races in Northern cities seem strange to us Southerners. In Detroit, the federal government supports and assists a project of houses for colored people, why do the

white Detroiters object? The disposition toward colored people that seems to be prevalent among white people in some cities in the South—The white people in the South "know their Northern cities is more than they know the South neither place" and stay in it. It seems to be different the white people nor the colored people in Detroit.

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

The Scandal of Detroit

Detroit, scene of the famous "Sweet Case," is again in the unfavorable news because of rioting between whites and Negroes when families of the latter attempted to move into Sojourner Truth Homes, a federal housing project, built for Negroes, then ordered given to whites and again given back to the Negroes for whom it was originally intended.

News despatches say it is located in an almost wholly white neighborhood and that whites claim Negro occupancy will depreciate the values of their adjacent property. It is passing strange what different types of folks live in different sections of the United States. In some localities white and colored people live in the same housing projects and in all sections of the country, even in the South, Negroes live adjacent to white people. Indeed many white people have Negroes living in their homes as servants on the "lot" in servants' houses, although they do, in many instances, think it is "an abomination in the sight of the Lord" to live in the same neighborhood with Negroes.

Maybe there is something about this situation which we don't understand. Maybe living near Negroes not only depreciates the value of property (though we have known of instances where it very greatly increased the values), but, perhaps, it also depreciates pride, character and superiority of white folks when they live along side of Negroes. If that is true, if that is a cardinal principle of the white man's philosophy, we wonder why white people go into every nook and corner of the earth which, according to their own theory, God gave to colored people.

But the people of Detroit should realize that rioting because of the probability of Negro neighbors is destroying national unity, and unless we have national unity, we cannot win this war, and unless we win the war their property values may really depreciate. It might be wise, therefore, to be a little more tolerant, and practice a little true democracy.

Detroiters In Capital Again About Housing

Mayor Still Says
State Troops Must
Protect Occupants

WASHINGTON, D. C. (AP)—Visiting this city again on behalf of the Detroit housing situation LeBroun Simmons and the Rev. Horace White carry on the fight for Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth homes in that city. After receiving instructions from John B. Blandford, Jr. to move Negro families into the project, the mayor is said to have refused declaring he could not guarantee them police protection. Mayor Jeffries is said to have asked for state troops to guard these homes if Negroes move into them.

The latest information in the capital is to the effect that Blandford will give Mayor Jeffries final word to move Negroes into the homes regardless of his feelings in the matter and give such police protection as he can.

If this proves inadequate, he has recourse to the officials here who intend, it is said, to see that Negroes get into these homes originally built for their occupancy.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

INDICTED IN DETROIT FOR HOUSING RIOTING

3 Accused of Conspiracy to Keep
Out Negro Tenants

DETROIT, April 16 (AP)—A Federal grand jury indicted three officers and members of the National Workers League and the Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association today, charging conspiracy to prevent Negro tenants from occupying the Sojourner Truth housing project here.

Those indicted are Parker Sage, treasurer, and Garland L. Alderman, secretary of the league, and Virgil Chandler, organizer and officer of the association.

The grand jury inquiry followed rioting Feb. 28, when white resi-

dents of the area near the housing project set up picket lines which halted an attempt of Negro families to move into the units.

The indictment charged that Messrs. Sage, Alderman and Chandler prior to Feb. 28, the day of the picket line riot at the project, and since that time had publicly threatened "rioting and bloodshed" if prospective Negro tenants were permitted to move in.

Birmingham Ala News

April 17, 1942

Negro Housing Heads And Federal Officials Worrying In Detroit

DETROIT—(AP)—While city authorities still pondered the method for placing Negro families in the Sojourner Truth defense housing project, the federal government prepared Friday to arraign three white men charged with seditious conspiracy to prevent such occupancy.

The three, also charged with violation of civil rights, were indicted by a federal Grand Jury Thursday even as city officials, acting on instructions from Washington to place Negroes in the homes, were trying to decide on the best means of doing so.

Two of the defendants, Parker Sage, of Detroit, and Garland L. Alderman, of Pontiac, are officers of the National Workers League while the third, Virgil Chandler, a factory foreman, is vice president of a neighborhood improvement organization.

The indictment, a result of the Feb. 28 riots when the first Negroes vainly attempted to move into the project, accused the three of violating the civil rights of the prospective tenants and conspiring by threats of riot and bloodshed to defeat a public purpose.

When the Dies committee was investigating charges last January that the National Workers League served as a clearing house for Axis propaganda, Sage and Alderman were witnesses before the committee. The indictment identified Sage as league treasurer and Alderman as secretary. The league itself was not accused.

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

INDICT 3 AS LEADERS OF DETROIT HOUSING RIOT

Civil Rights Violation,
Seditious Conspiracy

Charged by U. S.
APR 25 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Attorney General Francis Biddle announces that a Federal Grand Jury sitting in the Eastern District of Michigan at Detroit, on Thursday, returned an indictment against three officers and members of the National Workers League and the Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association, of Detroit, charging a conspiracy to prevent Negro tenants from occupying the Sojourner Truth Homes, a project of the United States Housing Authority.

The investigation was made under the supervision of John Lehr, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and the case was presented to the Grand Jury by Frank H. Patton, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

Those named in the indictment were Parker Sage and Garland L. Alderman, treasurer and secretary, respectively, of the National Workers League; and Virgil Chandler, organizer and officer of the Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association, all of Detroit.

The indictment contains two counts. The first charges a violation of civil rights under Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code, in that certain persons were prevented from occupying Federally-owned premises for which they had executed leases. The second charges a seditious conspiracy "to prevent, hinder or delay the execution of any law of the United States" under Section 6, Title 18, U. S. Code. The maximum penalty under the first count is a \$5,000 fine and imprisonment for ten years. Under the second count the maximum penalty is a \$5,000 fine and imprisonment for six years.

The Sojourner Truth Homes is a low cost housing project of the United States Housing Authority, located on a site recommended by the Detroit Planning Commission in 1939 as being suitable for Negro

occupancy. The project was completed in February, 1942 and occupancy was scheduled to begin on February 28. When the first group of Negro tenants attempted to move in they encountered a picket line and were stoned and had their belongings destroyed by a mob.

The indictment charges that the defendants for some time prior to February 28, and up to and including the day preceding the return of the indictment caused a picket line to be maintained around the housing project for the purpose of preventing occupancy by the tenants; that they publicly threatened rioting and bloodshed if Negro tenants attempted to occupy the project; that they induced other members of the National Workers League and the Seven-Mile Fenelon Improvement Association to engage in picketing the project; and that they prevented by force, "the authorized agents of the Federal Works Administrator, to-wit, Guy C. Larcom, and the members of the Detroit Housing Commission from installing said citizens as tenants in the said Sojourner Truth Housing Project, in the lawful execution" of Federal statutes.

The request for the Grand Jury investigation was made by Attorney General Francis Biddle on March 9, 1942.

Klan's Violence Backfires in Detroit; Labor Unites to Defend Negroes' Homes

MAR 8 - 1942

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

DETROIT, March 7.—The Klu Klux Klan attack on the Negro defense workers at the Sojourner Truth Housing Project here a week ago, intended by those who incited it to split Negro and white workers, has had the opposite effect. The quick and united action of both the AFL and the CIO to defend the Negroes and condemn the Klan has proven that the incident has become truly a unifying force of great importance in Detroit.

AFL and CIO, together with Negro and white organizations, banded into a citizens' committee, have waged a tireless struggle against a cabal of Klu Klux Klansmen, fascists, appeaser Congressmen and real estate sharks who sought to create mob violence to prevent the Negro workers from occupying the Sojourner Truth homes.

The Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, AFL; the Ford Local 600, UAW-CIO; the Wayne County CIO Industrial Union Council and scores of unions and organizations have adopted fighting resolutions stating that appeasement must be crushed, the Klu Klux Klan stamped out and that depriving the Negro people of these homes is a blow against national unity.

Speaking for more than 100,000 members of the AFL this week the Central Labor body last Wednesday adopted a resolution vigorously protesting the arrest of 260 Negroes by the Detroit police at the Sojourner Truth Project last Saturday night. The AFL delegates in their resolution stated that labor will be tested in this struggle against appeasement and the KKK, by labor's actions in defense of the rights of the Negro people.

Unity of Detroit's working people in the prime issue here, said the AFL resolution, and in order to maintain that unity in order to lick the Axis, a blow must be struck by all, through fighting to win the

project for the Negroes.

The CIO Industrial Union Council's resolution followed a similar militant and decisive policy. A large number of unions in their telegrams and resolutions on this matter have called upon President Roosevelt to initiate an investigation of KKK fifth column forces behind this mob violence against the Negro people.

TENEROWITZ TARGET

Scorching criticism by all arms of labor and the progressive forces has been levelled at Congressman Rudolf Tenerowicz, who has served in this Sojourner Truth Housing issue as the Washington appeasement agent for the real estate operators and their goons, the Klu Klux Klan.

In the city of Hamtramck, where Tenerowicz got his start, it was the labor movement combined with the Negro people in the Detroit section of his Congressional District that combined their efforts in 1940 and elected him.

Today these same forces have seen the Congressman they elected turn from a defender of labor and the people's rights to an appeaser whose record in the last year has been one of continuous support to the pro-Axis line of the Cliveden Set.

Cohorts of Tenerowicz in Hamtramck, the forces around the ex-Mayor Kanar machine, most of whom were recently indicted for graft by the County Grand Jury, have never lifted a finger to give stimulus to war conversion. This is the same gang, indicted for graft and collaboration with numbers rackets, that some months ago took away a Federal Housing Project from the Negro people of Hamtramck.

This graft ridden machine suffered a disastrous defeat in the Hamtramck recent primaries when Kanar's candidate for Mayor, one Matyniak, was thoroughly trounced by a progressive candidate, Dr. Stephen S. Skrzycki. Outstanding

victory in the primary was the nomination of Hamtramck's Communist Party leader, George Krystalsky, who finished eighth out of a field of 58 Krystalsky's militant "Win the War" program, backed up by a unrelenting fight for the rights of the Negro people, the foreign-born workers, for clean city government and imprisonment of the grafters swept him through the primaries.

Chicago Tribune Chicago, Illinois JAIL 20 IN CLASH OVER HOUSING OF NEGROES; 14 HURT

Detroit Restores Peace After Street Fights.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 28 [Special].—Police patrolling Detroit's northeast side tonight kept an uneasy peace at the scene of today's riot—a 200 unit defense housing project designated by the United States Housing Authority for Negro occupancy over the protests of whites.

Picketing by white residents of the neighborhood, including women and children, began at dawn and violence broke out about 10:15 a. m. when several Negro defense workers and their families sought to move into homes assigned to them.

Despite a decision by city authorities before noon to postpone the Negro moving day, fighting continued until late in the afternoon. Stones and bricks flew and at least two shots were fired. Moving vans were overturned and furniture was smashed.

Five Policemen Injured.

Police used clubs and tear gas. Twenty persons were jailed and 14 injured, including five policemen.

The new dwellings, constructed at a cost to the government of 1 million dollars, were vacant tonight while the question of whether the project is to be devoted to white or Negro tenancy appeared far from settlement.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries said he would go to Washington Monday to discuss the problem with federal officials.

Federal observers who watched today's clashes said they have advised Washington they would do what local authorities suggested to settle the questions involved. These observers were G. C. Larcom of the federal housing agencies, and his assistant, Sherman Reeder.

Decisions Twice Reversed.

Charles E. V. Prinz, director of information for the National Housing administration, said in Washington that the project was originally approved for Negro occupancy, but that protests from whites in the neighborhood caused Charles Palmer, then coordinator of defense housing, and Baird Snyder III., then acting administrator of the housing division of the federal works agency, to reverse their original stand and bar Negroes.

"Whereupon Negroes organized counter protests, getting up petitions which were presented to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt and sending delegations to Washington," Prinz said. "The protests resulted in a second reversal by Palmer and Snyder with the result that the project was again made available to Negroes."

The project covers an 18 acre tract at Fenelon and Nevada avenues.

Scene of Rioting

(Story in adjoining column.)



Circle locates federal housing project in Detroit where rioting broke out yesterday over effort to move in Negro families.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

No Color Line in Housing

MAR 6 - 1942

The government built housing in Detroit which is being fought over by whites and black should be awarded on need rather than on a race basis. Housing is for all men. Government housing at this time is a war measure. All other considerations are minor.

It is because defense employment is on a racial basis rather than national, that these two groups of citizens are spending against each strength and thought better employed against the common enemy.

These houses were built originally for Negroes. At the time their need was unquestioned. Now because employment on war production is almost monopolized by whites, they feel that they are entitled to the homes as a defense measure.

MAR 6 - 1942

The cure for the Detroit situation is found in correction from the ground up, rather than in any temporizing measures. National defense ought not be a matter of color in the mill, on the farm, or in the battle. This is a struggle of principles, our freedom and democracy against any and all opposing social programs. Whoever stands with us, whatever his color, is America's friend. If we cannot say that and live up to it, we confess ourselves untrue to principle and deserve the consequences.

Seriously now, why should not the two races live side by side in the Detroit housing built with funds which came out of the pocket of both? By no kind of reasoning are the rights or comforts of a family curtailed by the neighbors. Infringements are subject to correction by existing laws. Whoever asks society to grant him special privileges reminds us of the story told of a street car quarrel. A colored woman boarded the street car, paid her fare and attempted to take a seat beside a white passenger. The objector spoke out and got her even change. The other replied:

"Sorry madam, that you could not use your limousine this morning. As for me, I am on my way to work. I have paid for one seat and unless you have paid for two, I am taking what I have paid for here and now."

MAR 6 - 1942

Neither Negroes nor whites by reason of race, are entitled to what the government spends for a human need. The sooner we put our demands on a basis equally applicable to all men, the quicker the era of common sense will come in and displace this racial nonsense that keeps us quarrelling.

DETROIT LEADERS CALL FOR TROOP PROTECTION

MAR 6 - 1942

DETROIT, Mich., Mar. 5—Following the riot, colored leaders hastily called a meeting Saturday evening in the Plymouth Congregational Church, and over 300 citizens authorized Rev. Charles Hill to wire President Roosevelt for federal troops to "protect life, property and peace" at the Sojourner Truth Federal Housing Project. The meeting condemned the action of Detroit police officials in refusing to accept a request from Fort Custer to send troops into the city to provide the necessary protection.

BLAME INDECISION OF HOUSING HEADS FOR DETROIT CLASH

MAR 7 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D.C., Mar. 6—Wavering of Government officials between colored and white occupancy of the 200-unit defense housing project, the Sojourner Truth Settlement, in Detroit, was blamed here after reports of a race riot over moving colored families into the project were received here Saturday.

The project was originally planned to shelter colored war workers with an understanding that white tenants, who applied, would also be accepted. It was ready for occupancy last month. But after protests were received, the Division of Defense Housing Coordination announced that the project would be occupied by white tenants. This decision was made on January 15.

GOVERNMENT FAVORS RACE TENANCY

This decision brought strong protests from both white and colored organizations and individuals. A delegation from Detroit conferred with Baird Snyder, III, Acting Administrator of the Federal Works

Agency, and Charles F. Palmer, Coordinator of Defense Housing, and urged them to permit occupancy of the project by colored tenants.

As a result of this conference the selection of colored tenants, beginning February 16, was authorized.

REPRESENTATIVE HURLS CHARGES

Representative John Tenerowicz, of Detroit, who was active here in the fight against occupancy of the project by colored tenants, in a speech last Friday charged colored leaders and communistic elements with "creating a dangerous racial

issue" "to achieve local and national disunity."

His remarks confirmed the suspicion of vacillation by Government officials. "These officials", he said, "admitted that a colossal blunder had been made, but aside from assurances that mistakes of this kind would not be repeated elsewhere, no satisfaction was to be derived from them."

Afro-American

Baltimore, Maryland

Police Help KKK in Riot at Detroit

MAR 7 - 1942

Armed Whites Seek to Keep Tenants from New Housing Project

Tear Gas Barrages Finally Disperse Mob after 100 Are Hurt

MAR 7 - 1942

Mayor Orders Stop to Further Attempts to Occupy Homes

By RALPH MATTHEWS
Editor, Washington AFRO-AMERICAN

DETROIT—Shades of the infamous Dr. Ossian Sweet case of 15 years ago, which gave Detroit its first race riot overhung this automobile center this week as new clashes broke out over the Sojourner Truth Housing Project in which many were injured and 115 were arrested on Saturday.

The wholesale riot, similar to that in the Sweet case, grew out

Battle Halts to Let Funeral Pass

An interlude was provided about 3 p.m. when an aged preacher at the head of a funeral procession stood on top of the hearse to plead for a truce "so we can bury our dead brother in peace."

Fighting ceased but continued with new vigor as soon as the procession had passed.

of the efforts of colored tenants to move into the Federal housing project at Ryan and Nevada Avenues after whites, allegedly inspired by the Ku Klux Klan, had spread a picket line around the project and proceeded to club and beat up truck drivers who attempted to move the first 24 families into the 200-unit homes.

During the disturbance, which has been in the making for several months (causing investigators of both races to make frequent pilgrimages to Washington to clarify the status of the homes) police, allegedly sympathetic with the whites, joined in clubbing and arresting the colored tenants.

One White Arrested

Of the 115 persons arrested during the disturbance only one was white.

Fifty-two persons were arraigned before Judge George Murphy, brother of the Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy, on Monday morning charged with disturbing the peace and carrying concealed weapons.

Defense Counsel Joe Craigen and Lebon Simmons expertly turned the tables on the police when they insisted that their clients were not guilty because the whites on the premises were there illegally and the colored citizens were the ones whose peace had been disturbed, as they were in full possession of orders signed by the city authorizing them to occupy their homes.

Police Can't Explain

Police were unable to explain why no whites had been arrested.

The question of just who is actually behind the controversy over the occupancy of the homes, originally designated for colored, is a moot one, appearing to be a combination of sinister influences, which find common ground in their anti-colored alliance.

Catholics are lined up with the Ku Klux Klan, with one Catholic faction, the Irish, represented by the League of Catholic Women, favoring the colored tenants in opposition to the Polish element which inspired the drive to have the project re-assigned to whites.

Priest Opposes It

First open opposition to colored occupancy came when a priest wrote an open letter demanding that colored citizens be excluded on the ground that their proximity to the nearby white settlement held a potential threat to the daughters of white residents.

It has later been advanced that the whole fight, while flaring with racial and religious hatred, has even a deeper significance and is really being stirred up by a real estate combine which has

61-1942

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
May 13, 1942

AN UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCE

Whenever a lynching occurs in the Southern states, the press in some sections of the country displays the announcement in glaring head-lines accompanied with innuendos charging race prejudice and hatred held by the people of the South for the negro, all of which is untrue and without foundation of facts.

Last week in Detroit, Mich., there arose a race riot which resulted in the injury of three policemen creating general disorder throughout that city. This was not the first inter-racial outbreak that has occurred in Detroit. Only a few weeks ago, the races met in deadly combat and a number of lives were lost.

This is only one of many riots that have occurred in that section of the country between the races. More than in all sections of the South in recent years. While newspapers, published in certain sections of the country, take a delight in giving publicity to like incidents occurring in Southern states, little as possible is said of uprisings that occur in their own back yard.

The item referred to as sent out by the Associated Press, read:

"Three policemen were injured by flying bricks today while dispersing a negro mob estimated at 2,000 which looted and burned a restaurant operated by a white proprietor after a negro was shot and seriously wounded in a another nearby white restaurant.

"It was Detroit's second major demonstration of inter-racial animosity in a little more than two months."

So it will be seen that if race hatred exists in any section of the country, it is not in the Southern states, but in the sections of the country where social equality is advocated for the people of the South; but when it is put in practice in their own communities, then the equality of the negro is resented by riots and lynchings. It is a poor rule that does not work both ways.

The trouble arose over the building of a federal housing project for negroes in a section of Detroit occupied by white families.

Not Confined To South

While critics would have us believe that the race problem is confined to the South, recent events in Detroit indicate that other sections of the nation have their altercations between the blacks and the whites also.

The second outbreak within a few months recently occurred in the Motor City, resulting in injuries to three policemen struck by bricks while dispersing a Negro mob estimated at 2,000 which looted and burned a restaurant operated by a white proprietor after a Negro was shot and seriously wounded in another nearby white restaurant.

This was Detroit's second major demonstration of inter-racial animosity, and state troops with fixed bayonets, state police and city police still maintain constant guard over the \$1,000,000 Sojourner-Truth housing project for Negroes, scene of rioting on February 28, when white residents of the neighborhood, who protested Negro occupation of the 200-home federal development, clashed with the Negroes.

In citing these cases we, of course, are attempting to fix no blame for the occurrences, but are merely mentioning them to disprove the assertions of critics of the South. Left alone, free from outside influences, the white man and the Negro in the South get along well. They understand each other and each other's problems, and work together for their mutual benefit. That is as it should be. It is only when agitators inflame the minds of either that trouble occurs.

The whites are just as proud of the records established by such Negroes as Booker T. Washington and Dr. George Washington Carver of Tuskegee Institute as if they were members of their own race. The Negroes have been retarded, through no fault of their own or of the whites; but the records made by such outstanding men as the two mentioned above prove that the black race is moving steadily forward.

Far from attempting to hold the Negroes back, as some critics charge, the South is attempting to help them assume their rightful place in the world. That is the rule in Dixie, not the exception, and we can rightfully take pride in the outstanding progress made by the Negroes.

MICHIGAN

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

FBI Reports On Detroit Riot

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Cracking down on the Detroit situation, members of the FBI have returned in their reports to the department of justice, covering some 250 pages, in which they trace the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in the case as well as other subversive organizations involved.

Atty. Gen. Biddle and Housing Administrator Blandford will issue a joint statement very soon, which is expected to be an order to the mayor of Detroit for Negroes to move into these houses without further delay.

At the same time, indictments are expected to be turned by the grand jury following the statements of the FBI. All of the report is in the hands of the local Detroit authorities and the housing authority as well as the mayor will soon receive instructions that Negroes are to tenant the Sojourner Truth houses. Adequate police protection must also be provided the occupants of the houses according to the statement the attorney general and the housing administrator will issue.

The action marks the finale in the Detroit fiasco, although it precipitated race riots, bitterness among the twonspeople, religious differences and all sorts of friction.

Feeling they have a right to the occupancy of the houses, Detroit Negroes waged a continuous battle only to see their fondest hopes nillored from time to time and the fight grow tougher.

This affair is believed to have done more to bring about the recent reorganization of the public housing program than anything else that had happened.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 14, 1942

Negro View of 'Gov't'

To The News and Courier:

I do not agree with your recent editorial opinion that the negroes in the recent Detroit "riot" were probably in the right, or "egged" into action by a class of white people who manifested animosity rather than principle.

In your own South Carolina (of which I am a proud native) the negroes are ripe to express in-

subordination of just such nature as that Detroit, riot. The WPB, the FSA and the national forest service, with perhaps other federal aids, have lulled the negro into the belief that there is a mythical Santa Claus-like institution which they call the gov'ment that operates independently from the white man and solely for the benefit of the negro. "We are not 'pendent on the white man now, and we is jest as white as he is. . . The white man ain't got no 'thor'ty over us, we works for the gov'ment." These statements have been heard, and unless the government is returned to the people there is trouble ahead for the South.

In another recent editorial you wondered why the A. F. of L. did not want to organize farmers. Perhaps it is because the A. F. of L. concerns itself only with persuading capital to give employes living wages, knowing that those employed in the city have no other means of sustenance except their salaries. Whereas, in the country there are media of exchange other than money, a person with the right attitude toward country life can make himself independent. There is a saying "God made the country, and man made the town." The A. F. of L. knows it is futile to paint the lily. There is no capital or trust to break up, that individuals may ve and in its stand the A. F. of L. could further help the farmers by asking the federal government to give them markets and let them alone.

(Miss) L. MARIE TAYLOR.
Augusta

Detroit Rioter Convicted

DETROIT—(ANP)—The first conviction growing out of the Sojourner Truth housing project race riot in February was recorded here Friday when a sentence of two and a half to five years was meted out.

Lawrence Martin, 23, white, was found guilty of carrying concealed weapons at the riot. He also faces a federal prison term under the act prohibiting a convicted felon from carrying a gun. He had been convicted of burglary in 1938.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.
Race Riot

There was a race riot in Detroit a few days ago. A government-sponsored housing project with 800 units was opened to Negroes, and 1200 of their white neighbors tried to prevent the Negroes from moving in. In the ensuing battle scores of persons were injured. We recognize the difficulties in race relations, some of them economic; but even so, the whites who tried to prevent the Negroes from occupying property to which they were legally entitled were assuredly doing Hitler's work. We don't doubt that the story of that riot was told all over Asia, with Nazi trimmings, within twenty-four hours.

61-1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois
**NEGRO SHOT, MOB
LOOTS AND BURNS
CAFE IN RACE RIOT**

MAY 4 - 1942
**Police Hit by Bricks
in Detroit Battle.**

Detroit, Mich., May 3 (AP).—Three policemen were injured by bricks today while dispersing a Negro mob estimated at 2,000 which looted and burned a restaurant operated by a white proprietor after a Negro was shot in another nearby white restaurant.

MAY 4 - 1942
All available officers were rushed to the scene of the disorders which began shortly before midnight and continued until 2 a. m.

It was Detroit's second major demonstration of racial animosity in a little more than two months.

Troops Guard Housing Project.

State troops with fixed bayonets, state police and city police still maintain constant guard over the million dollar Sojourner Truth housing project for Negroes, scene of rioting Feb. 28 when white residents of the neighborhood, who had protested Negro occupation of the 200 home federal development, clashed with the Negroes.

MAY 4 - 1942
Detective Inspector William Delisle said the new disorder, miles away from the Sojourner Truth project, followed the shooting of Henry Rollin, 46 year old Negro, in a restaurant altercation.

Police arrested Peter Kafkas, 22 son of the restaurant proprietor, and held him for investigation.

Looting and Firing.

While officers were restoring order in the vicinity of Kafkas' restaurant, Inspector Delisle reported, Negroes gathered at the second restaurant and another altercation developed. A crowd numbering 2,000 was attracted and looting and firing of the place followed. One Negro was arrested.

MICHIGAN

**Detroiters Riot Again While
State Guards Truth Houses**

DETROIT—Families moving into the Sojourner Truth Houses here had their belongings moved by the Busy Bee trucking company which painted on the top of its vans the sign: "He who believeth in God shall not perish." Yet not far away from the housing project violent race rioting broke out over the week-end. Tension between races is running high. It started Saturday night when Peter Kafkas, 22, Greek proprietor of a tavern in the Negro section, shot Henry Rollin, 46, in the abdomen. Police arrested Kafkas, held him for investigation.

Approximately an hour and a half later, a restaurant near Kafkas's was set afire and wrecked by a mob of 2,000 persons who battled police when they attempted to arrest the white proprietor of the restaurant who pulled a gun on a Negro. In the general disorder three white policemen and three Negroes were injured by flying bricks.

Meantime, Michigan state troopers, state police and city police redoubled their guard around the housing project. The first families moved in on April 29. Most of the certified tenants didn't move in the first day, because they feared a repetition of the rioting which marked their first attempt to take possession on Feb. 28. All 200 units will probably be occupied in the next few days.

The housing which is restricted to Negro defense workers has rents which range from \$27.50 to \$32.50 per month depending partly on the income of the family and partly on the number of bedrooms.

The shooting in the Kafkas tavern took place miles away from the Sojourner Truth project, yet it marks the second outbreak of race rioting in this city inside a period of three months.

**Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois**

**VIOLENCE HITS
IN HEMPSTEAD
AND DETROIT**

**Wreck Cafe in Michigan;
Soldiers Battle in N.Y.**

**With Civilians
Two riots of sizable pro-**

portions which involved military officials and civilians occurred this week, one in Detroit, Mich., the other in Hempstead, N. Y.

In the Detroit riot, one Negro was shot, three policemen injured and a restaurant was looted and set afire.

In the Hempstead fracas, injuries were limited to a fractured skull received by a man and lacerations received by a woman. Nine civilian arrests were made and an undisclosed number of soldiers were taken into custody by military police.

MAY 9 - 1942
DETROIT, Mich.—Racial bitterness which permeated the long fight for Negro occupancy of the Sojourner Truth defense homes is believed to have been the "bomb" that set off the riot here on May 7 which began with the shooting of Henry Rollin, 46, by Peter Kafkas, son of a tavern owner.

After Kafkas had been arrested by police and disturbance at the Kafkas tavern was quelled, another altercation broke out at a restaurant not far away and 2,000 Negroes reportedly looted and set fire to the place. One person was arrested in connection with this outburst. Three policemen were injured by thrown bricks.

HEMPSTEAD, N. Y.—Tavern patrons, incensed by the attempt of policemen to haul an intoxicated soldier into a patrol wagon on May 3, became involved in a rock-throwing battle with civil authorities which attracted nine carloads of county police and military policemen who brought into play their nightsticks.

The disturbance which lasted several hours was finally broken up when nine civilian arrests were made and soldiers were taken into

custody by military police from nearby Mitchell Field.

The only reported injuries were a skull fracture and a lacerated neck suffered by two civilians.

**ARGUS
St. Louis, Missouri**

**DETROIT PREJUDICE
COSTS STATE \$190,182**

**Housing Project
Guards Stay**

MAY 8 - 1942
DETROIT, May 6 — State troops guarding the Sojourner Truth housing project, where Negro families moved in last week, are expected to stay on guard for a month. A clash between 2,000 Negroes and whites here Sunday after a white restaurant proprietor shot and killed Henry Rollins, 42, caused the decision to take extra precaution to protect the dwellers in the 200-family project which was the scene of a riot Feb. 28.

In the absence of National Guard units, all of which are in federal service, the state troops constituting the only force at the governor's command, was mobilized. The state administrative board allotted \$190,182 to finance 1,500 troopers over a 30 day period.

Included in the guard contingent are 10 Detroit companies and 14 from outstate. Most of the guardsmen have families or are beyond the draft age, and expected to be called for service only in event of war emergencies within the state. Many are said to be employees of war production plants.

**Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia**

**Negro Shot In
Another Riot In
Detroit, Mich.**

**Several Miles
From Sojourner
Truth Homes**

MAY 6 - 1942

DETROIT—(ANP)—Racial tension which flamed several weeks ago as Negroes sought to move into the Sojourner Truth Defense homes, flared again Sunday in another part of the city following the shooting of a Negro in a white restaurant.

Three police were injured by bricks as they sought to break up a mob of 2,000 colored persons which looted and burned a white restaurant near where the shooting took place.

According to Detective Inspector William Delisle, the riot followed the shooting of Henry Rollin, 46, in a restaurant altercation. One bullet struck him in the abdomen. Police arrested Pete Kafkas, 22, white, son of the restaurant proprietor, and held him for investigation.

MAY 6 - 1942
While officers were restoring order in the vicinity of the Kafkas restaurant, a crowd gathered at another white restaurant and a new altercation developed. A crowd numbering 2,000 was attracted and looting and firing of the place followed. One man was arrested.

Sunday's trouble was several miles away from the Sojourner Truth neighborhood where state troops with fixed bayonets, state

police and city police are maintaining constant guard after the first Negro families moved in last week.

THE DETROIT DISGRACE

Detroit is a city in Michigan.

Michigan is a state situated in the heart of Yankeedom, in the northern tier of these United States.

Men of Michigan fought and died to abolish slavery in the South and to make the Negro their equal in citizenship.

In Michigan and other Northern states you find the congressmen who are hell bent on passing anti-lynching legislation in the face of the fact that lynchings of men, both white and black, in recent years have been more or less equally divided between the geographical sections of the country.

But what happens in Detroit, which is a city in Michigan when an attempt is made to pour two races into the same section? Here is what the news wire says:

"DETROIT, May 3—(AP)—Three policemen were injured by flying bricks today while dispersing a Negro mob estimated at 2,000 which looted and burned a restaurant operated by a white proprietor after a Negro was shot and seriously wounded in another nearby white restaurant.

"It was Detroit's second major demonstration of inter-racial animosity in a little more than two months."

Both outbreaks are the result of the construction of a federal housing project for Negroes in a section of Detroit long occupied by white people.

Both are the direct result of an apparent administration effort to place white people and Negroes on a basis of equality whether either race likes it or not. It is tragic that the rat nest of social-gainers in Washington have chosen not to forego their John Brown-type crusading for the duration.

The people of the South and the Negroes in their midst are enjoying the most harmonious relationship since the time Northern traders brought the Negroes from Africa and shoved them upon us. Evidently some force or faction in Washington is doing its utmost to upset this tranquility, the meanwhile yelling for "unity" among Americans.

The disgrace of Detroit is not the disgrace of the South. It is a disgrace caused by Washington. It is an incident that signifies the widespread opposition to a White House and "My Day" effort to stuff down the throats of people erroneous beliefs at a time when all minds and all effort should be concentrated upon winning the war.

We predict here and now that if this sort of thing continues—and Negroes aren't the only people they are trying to force upon us—there will be, after the war is won, one great national vomiting spell in which all of this scummy type of business will be thrown up by a free people who do not wish to be Europeanized, Balkanized or Africanized.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
May 9, 1942

Editorial Comment

"THE DETROIT DISGRACE"

From the Anderson Independent.

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Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
May 5, 1942

Rioting in Detroit

A few weeks ago the Chicago Tribune was enraged because of a fight between military police and Negro soldiers in an Arkansas training camp. The editor declared that Negro soldiers should never be sent to camps in the South. The incident gave that newspaper its desired opportunity to discredit the administration at Washington, the management of the Army, and the South.

Sunday the police of Detroit, state police and state troops with fixed bayonets were called on to quell a disturbance in that city caused by opposition of white residents to the opening of a federal housing project for Negroes.

The riot is mentioned here merely to show the unfair attitude of the Tribune toward the South. The Arkansas affair was entirely one of military discipline but Colonel McCormick's newspaper used it as a means of vilification of the South and its people. What will he say of the Detroit riot in which the army forces were not involved?

The people of the South had absolutely no responsibility for the Arkansas affair. The people of Detroit, white and black, were wholly responsible for the outbreak between the races of last Sunday. The Tribune has been a trouble maker for a half century. It was born of the womb of prejudice and hatred and it always runs true to form.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 3, 1942

"Sabotage" in Detroit

One of the "liberal" and "intellectual" weeklies of a big city that fecundates them explains the race riot of February 28 in Detroit, when negroes attempting to move into a "housing project" built for them were forcibly resisted by a white mob, by saying that it was "an organized piece of pro-Axis sabotage, a deliberate demonstration against democracy and unity" and that "three of the organizers of the mob have been indicted by the federal government on charges of seditious conspiracy to hinder the execution of the law of the United States."

All of this may be so. Queer as the story sounds to Southern ears, we shall not dis-

pute it. In the city of Charleston, an incorporated area of less than five square miles inhabited by about 75,000 people of whom around 40,000 are white, are four collections of houses for negroes built with federal funds. It occurred to no one to resist the occupation of these houses when the colored people moved into them—we do not have race riots in our part of the world. With disappointment we read that when the negroes finally entered their houses in Detroit (this is a dispatch printed since the statement of the "intellectual" magazine was written) they were escorted by 1,500 armed soldiers, from which it may follow that not all of the agents of the Axis have been arrested.

Twelve years have passed since a lynching was had in South Carolina (The News and Courier hopes that there will never be another), and if any persons linger who would like to lynch they are warned by the arrests in Detroit that the federal authorities would probably apprehend and indict participants in another crime of mob law on the ground that they were engaged in a "seditious conspiracy to hinder the execution of the law in the United States".

The federal government has taken on numerous new and great powers in the last nine years, it is government for which the "lynching element" as well as others in the South have perseveringly voted, and if it shall come to pass that lynchers have voted themselves into jails, The News and Courier will shed no tears, much as it resents federal interference in state affairs.

A lynching was attempted in Georgia a few days ago, or so we read in a newspaper of that state.

61-1942

MISSOURI

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Car Hits Gas Pump and Riot Starts In Southeast Missouri

(By Special Correspondent)

WYATT, Mo. — It doesn't take much to stir up trouble in Southeast Missouri.

A Negro driver's car crashed into a gasoline pump here Sunday, May 31, and the accident set off the spark which flared into a miniature riot in which two persons were injured and one person arrested.

Missouri state highway patrolmen, led by Sgt. Melvin Dace, rushed to the scene to prevent more trouble.

The clash started when an automobile, occupied by three young Negroes, bumped into a gasoline pump at a filling station operated by Arthur Sparks, white deputy constable, after it had a short time before struck a tree near the station. The driver of the car had bought gas at the station earlier in the day.

Sgt. Dace said that an unidentified bystander told him that while Sparks was questioning the driver of the car about a driver's license, one of the youthful passengers, about 16 years old, attempted to stab the station operator. The bystander said that he then struck the 16-year-old boy over the head with a quart oil bottle. Sparks was cut by flying glass from the container.

At this time, James Branson, one of the youths in the car, pulled out a rifle and held 10 white persons at bay while the other Negroes backed off into the Negro district.

The whites then armed themselves and a crowd gathered at the filling station. Some of the white men went to the Negro section but the armed Negroes refused to leave their homes.

Branson was placed in jail but no charges have been filed against him.

Sergeant Dace and two troopers went to the homes of the Negroes who came out without resistance and surrendered their firearms.

A group of six patrolmen dispersed the crowd of whites.

Branson and his companions told the officers that they were carrying guns while looking for a man who had cut a relative of theirs in a holdup last Thursday night.

Wyatt is seven miles east of Charleston on the road to Cairo, Ill.

The trouble at Wyatt follows on the heels of a flare-up over wages demanded by Negro cotton pickers. Wyatt is just a few miles from Sikeston where Cleo Wright was lynched in January.

61-1942
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl.

SECRECY SURROUNDS INVESTIGATION OF FORT DIX OUTBREAK; NUMBER SLAIN IS UNKNOWN

APR 25 1942

"Get Out of the Way, Nigger," Is Remark Said To Have Launched Battle

FORT DIX, N. J.—(ANP)—Secrecy surrounds the investigation of the outbreak which occurred here recently causing the death of two colored soldiers and a white MP. The start of the probe was begun last week with the arrival of Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis and other high ranking army officials. To date, however, little cooperation from soldiers involved has been received.

Actually, it is said soldiers are in silent revolt. Although they will obey commands given by superior officers, they will not tell what they know of the tragedy. Investigating officers say they are not aware of this as yet, but will probably be before the investigation is over.

Then too, the number of soldiers reportedly slain in the clash conflicts. It was originally said that only three were killed, but the current story claims otherwise. Instead of the one white MP slain, soldiers say four whites were shot to death.

"I know what I'm talking about," one soldier declared, "because I helped to take their bodies to the morgue. They can print all they want to about one white boy being killed."

On the other hand, Maj. A. E. Weldike, public relations officers, lists as dead: MP Mannie Strouth, white, of Honeycamp, Va.; Corp. W. E. Hall, Conyers, Ga., and Pvt. Isaac Brown, Henderson, Tenn. Those wounded were Pinky Reed, Summit, Miss.; Wilbur Evans, Waynesboro, Miss.; John Robinson, Augusta, Ga.; Ivy Martin, Greenwood, Miss., and Millotte Hammond whose address was not given.

As to how the trouble started, no one is quite certain. Army officials say it started over the use of a phone booth. The story goes that colored and white soldiers were waiting to use the telephone at Gus Waldren's Sports palace when a white soldier, presumably of the

south, objected to the presence of a colored soldier in front of him.

"Get out of the way, nigger," he is reported to have whispered. "If I had you back home you wouldn't dare stand in front of men." MP Strouth and MP L. C. Hayhoe, both white, were asked to "get the nigger out of here."

Strouth is then said to have grabbed the colored soldier to pull him out of line. Hayhoe, of Lansing, Mich., backed away, saying, "We can handle this thing without abusing each other, fellows, so all of you step aside and let's settle this without disturbing the line."

But Strouth was said to have stated, "I know how to handle these darkies. Let me take care of it my way."

Just about that time a colored soldier walked up to Strouth and attempted to snatch his revolver. Strouth hit the soldier on the jaw and the free-for-all began.

Another colored soldier knocked Strouth down and dared him to get up. "I think you're anxious to use that gun on some of us black boys," he reportedly said, "and I'm not going to let you get up."

Strouth begged to be allowed to get on his feet, promising not to use his gun. Finally allowed to get up, he ran out to the road in front of the Sports palace and fired three shots, apparently a call for help. As he finished firing, a colored soldier fired three bullets into him with a regulation rifle. Five white MP's returned the fire, directing it toward the barrack where colored soldiers were housed.

After about 50 shots had been

fired, MP Don Blackman, well known prizefighter of Harlem, walked into the line of fire and ordered the colored boys to cease sniping. "Cease your fire men, or my men will be forced to do something we'd rather not do," he said. Not until after the firing was over was it realized that Blackman was only bluffing, and that he did not

Kansas City, Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Three Men Killed at Fort Dix

APR 10 1942

Trouble Starts
With Argument
Over Telephone

FORT DIX, N. J.—(ANP)—Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, ranking Negro officer in the United States army and assistant to the inspector general, Saturday launched an investigation into the riot deaths Thursday night of two colored soldiers and a white military policeman and the wounding of five other Negroes.

The New York Port of Embarkation, which now has jurisdiction over Fort Dix, at the same time began inquiry into the shooting. The two are being held jointly with Brig. Gen. Davis, sent here from Washington, as head of the investigating committee. Another probe by a board of Fort Dix officers, headed by Lt. Col. Arthur Grant, was started Friday for the post commander Col. C. M. Dowell.

MERELY A BRAWL

Col. Dowell, as post investigation started, called the riot "merely a brawl" without racial significance.

Pvt. Joseph Gray, accused of having provoked the shooting by attempting to snatch the pistol of Pvt. L. C. Hayhoe of Lansing, Mich., white M. P., was the first participant called. He allegedly grabbed at the gun as Hayhoe sought to quiet an argument over the use of a telephone between two white and one Negro soldiers in

the Waldron Sports palace, a recreation center on private property across a highway from a Negro barracks.

The owner of Waldron, Augustus Waldron, white, of Trenton, said Gray left a bowling alley to snatch at Hayhoe's gun. Gray then fled from the building pursued by Hayhoe and another white M. P., Pvt. Manie W. Strouth of Honey Camp, Va. Outside they fired three or four shots in the air and Gray stopped.

THREE SHOTS IN BACK

He was being led back to the building, Waldron said, when about 40 colored soldiers, illegally armed with rifles, crept up behind Strouth and fired three shots into his back. He fell dead with a bullet in the heart. His assailant, later identified as Pvt. Isaac W. Brown of Henderson, Tenn., was shot down by Hayhoe.

A volley of rifle shots from colored soldiers followed this gunplay. Waldron by this time had extinguished his outside lights. Hayhoe retreated into the building with two other M. P.'s including Pvt. Don Blackman of New York City, a Negro, who held riflemen at bay until 25 reserve M. P.'s arrived.

FORT DIX, N. J.—(A.N. P.)—A dispute growing out of who was to use the telephone precipitated a riot between Negro troops and white M.P.'s here Thursday. As a result three soldiers were killed and five wounded.

In a fight which lasted for 15 minutes, bullets flew back and forth across a highway, with M.P.'s taking up positions outside of a restaurant and on the edge of the fort grounds and Negroes firing from a barracks building a few yards away. With the arrival of staff officers, the battle ended.

Inside the barracks, Pvt. Isaac W. Brown, Henderson, Tenn., and Corp. W. E. Hall were found dead. The third victim was Pvt. Manie W. Strought, white M.P. from Honey Camp, Va. The wounded were all Negroes. One was shot while taking a shower bath.

According to Maj. Aage We'dike, public relations officer, the dispute began while the troops were waiting to use a pay station telephone. Angry words were exchanged and an M.P., believed to have been Strought, attempted to quell the disturbance.

"He had words with one of the Negro soldiers," said the major, "who lunged for the M.P.'s pistol, ripping the holster. The soldier did not secure the pistol and ran away. The M.P. chased him outside and fired one shot over his head, calling him to halt."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Private Shot At Fort Dix DEC 12 1942 Succumbs

TRENTON, N. J.—On the weekend following the Phoenix, Ariz., soldier rioting a racial outburst resulted in the death of Private David Woods, who was shot in the abdomen by a white soldier on special military duty at nearby Fort Dix.

Woods was waiting outside a line at the No. two theatre at the post when he was approached by James Gregg, the special duty military policeman. He was ordered into line, but, according to reports, did not act by a count of three set by Greggs.

He fired at the number three, sending a bullet into Wood's body from which he is said to have died early Monday morning.

WHITE SOLDIER KILLED

On the following Tuesday a white soldier was killed by an unidentified colored soldier, who cut the throat of his victim after an argument.

Latest reports placed Greggs in confinement awaiting hearing on charges of first degree murder. At last report the assailant of the white soldier was not named.

MP Jailed On Charge Of Murder

Dec. 12, 1942
TRENTON, N. J.—(ANP)

—Following two racial outbursts in 72 hours at nearby Fort Dix, two soldiers, one colored and one white, are dead, and a white military policeman is in confinement awaiting charges for first degree murder.

The first incident which occurred

early last Friday evening resulted in the death of Pvt. David Woods, 23, a member of the 94th Engineers from a pistol wound at the hands of Pvt. James Gregg, white southerner, member of a task force outfit, on special military police duty at Fort Dix's Theatre No. Two.

Pvt. Woods, according to witnesses, was standing with a small group of soldiers just outside the foyer of the theatre. The MP is alleged to have approached Woods and ordered him to the end of the line that was waiting its turn at the ticket window. Woods, witnesses say, told the MP that "a friend" of his in the line was getting his ticket.

A dozen witnesses, some of them

of Gregg's outfit, testified The MP then drew his gun and told Woods that if he did not move to the end of the line by the time he counted to three, he would shoot him. He then deliberately counted to three and fired, hitting Woods in the abdomen, a wound from which he died at 3:15 Monday morning.

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Narrowly Avert Riot

Although only a few of the 94th men were at the theatre at the time, news of the shooting spread like wild fire, and in a short while the entire area was festering with loaded rifles. During the next hectic two hours several shots were fired by enraged soldiers, and it was all the officers of the 94th could do to avert a bloody riot.

Pvt. Woods entered the service at Chicago on March 25, 1941. He is survived by his father, Robert Woods, and sister, Mrs. Helen Hall, both of Chicago. Col. Robert Levett, commanding officer of the 94th Engineers, issued a statement that Pvt. Woods discharged his duties as a soldier in an excellent manner, and that his loss to the regiment is one that cannot be replaced.

Something of an anti-climax to last Friday's tragedy was the killing of a white soldier, member of the same task outfit, by an unidentified Negro soldier near the bus station here early Tuesday morning. The two men, part of a group returning to Fort Dix from over night passes, became engaged in a heated argument.

The white soldier is alleged to have reached for his knife, but was a bit late on the draw. The colored soldier, witnesses say, drew his knife and slashed the white man across the throat. The knife wielder escaped through the crowd, and the victim died a few hours later. This double killing has turned the large army fort into a virtual powder keg.

Last Friday night's tragedy was the climax of a tense feeling that has existed between the Negro soldiers and a white armored task force outfit from a southern camp staging at Fort Dix. Early in November friction between this outfit and the 94th Engineers caused the commanding general of the white unit to place the post exchange and recreation hall, both inside the 94th area, "off limits" for the colored soldiers.

Although they had shared the same facilities with hundred of other southern white soldiers since their arrival here from Fort Custer, Mich., in July, and had had no trouble they were and still are obliged to use a jim crow canteen and recreation hall.

Two More Pegs

These two incidents are just two more pegs that threaten to sabotage the high morale of the 94th, who come principally from Michigan and Illinois, have been stationed for several months at Fort Dix waiting final orders for overseas duty.

The situation recalls this same outfits' experiences two summers ago during the Arkansas-Louisiana war games when they were forced from the highway into a ditch at

the points of machine and riot guns in the hands of Arkansas state police who disliked the presence of northern Negro troops.

The killing of Pvt. Woods is the second such occurrence at Fort Dix in the last five months. The other was the killing of a Negro soldier by a white MP in an amusement emporium that has since been closed. The Penny Arcade, as it was called, is not more than 300 yards from the area of the 94th.

61-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

NEW JERSEY

Fatal Riot at Fort Dix Had Been Brewing Several Weeks

APR 11 1942

**General B. O. Davis
Heads Board of Inquiry
Sent by Army Inspector
General's Office**

**Independent Probe Be-
ing Conducted by Fort
Dix Officers for Post
Commander**

**AFRO Reporter Finds
That Racial Trouble Had
Been Smouldering Sev-
eral Weeks**

But when first announcing that the shooting was "the first manifestation of any ill-feeling among different races at the post," Major Aage Woldike, post public relations officer, remarked that the dispute may have begun "with some persons with a little too much race consciousness getting off the track."

Questioned by the AFRO representative, Major Woldike declared that he had been "misquoted" by white newspapers in referring to the shooting as the result of "ill feeling."

Conservations with several soldiers, however, revealed that ill-feeling had been prevailing for several weeks, particularly against the white officers and military policemen from the South.

Military officials at Fort Dix refused to disclose the company number of those involved in the shooting, but it was learned from the soldiers, and later confirmed by the officials, that both the white and colored soldiers were from the South.

Members of Labor Unit

The colored soldiers, it was learned, are originally from Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. A labor battalion, they were first stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., but in recent months have been doing work at Marcus Hook, Pa. and in Connecticut, before coming here several weeks ago.

The labor battalion is officered by whites, the highest ranking colored officers being sergeants.

Being under the command of "peck officers," as one colored soldier told the AFRO, first caused resentment among the soldiers when they were in the South. The ill-feeling became more intensified, it was said, when the colored soldiers were moved northward, with the white officers still in command.

Separated from 372nd

Since being at Fort Dix, the labor battalion of Southern youths has been placed in bar-

racks in the section usually occupied by white units. Members of the 372nd Regiment, which has colored officers, are about two miles from where the Southerners are stationed and they were not involved in the shooting on Thursday night.

In being separated from other colored soldiers at Fort Dix, the members of the labor battalion were puzzled and dissatisfied by the change of events which placed them alongside of the white soldiers from the South, and also under their rule, whether on duty or off.

This almost "mixing" of the white and colored soldiers from below the Mason-Dixon line, it appeared, may have been designed to prevent the colored units from the South from coming into intimate contact with members of the 372nd Regiment, with its colored officers.

"Mixing" Laid Foundation

This "mixing" of the Southerners also laid the foundation for Thursday night's shooting fray, as Waldron's Sports Palace, where the melee began, was crowded with colored and white women, and soldiers of both races—from the South.

The first version given by the military officers that the shooting was the result of the attempt of a white military officer to prevent a colored soldier from stepping out of a line to use the telephone, it is said, is not a true report of the incident.

One white MP, with a Southern accent, asked the AFRO representative: "Why didn't you all print the truth?" He was startled when the reply was given that "we haven't printed anything, yet."

He also remarked that he "couldn't talk" about what happened, because of military rules.

There is a feeling among the colored soldiers that a fight took place in the sports palace between white and colored soldiers, with the battle on the outside of the place following.

Kansas City, Mo.
Call
Kansas City, Mo.

More May Have Died, Is Rumor

APR 11 1942

Silent Revolt Among Soldiers; Davis on Scene

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it toward the barracks where colored soldiers were housed.

After about 50 shots had been fired, M.P. Don Blackman, well-known prizefighter of Harlem, walked into the line of fire and ordered the colored boys to cease sniping. "Cease your fire, men, or my men will be forced to do something we'd rather not do," he said. Not until after the firing was over was it realized that Blackman was only bluffing, and that he did not have reinforcements which they believed he had.

Investigation into the incident was begun immediately by white officers. Soldiers were confined to barracks pending the outcome. The regiment involved was the 77th coast artillery composed of draftees from Dixie which figured in the news three months ago during its stay on guard duty at Marcus Hook, Pa. It was at that time a few weeks following, the outbreak was sent to the south.

Ft. Dix Soldiers Tell of Jim-Crow In Neighborhood

APR 7 - 1942
By Harry Raymond

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

FT. DIX, N. J., April 6.—A board of army officers continued to probe today into the fatal clash between white military police and Negro troops which resulted last Thursday in the death of two Negroes and one white M. P.

Officers and men of the post, in a vast open-house celebration of Army Day, were trying their best to live down the feeling, which although not ap-incident, which their commanding parently wide-spread, exists here officer, Cassius M. Dowell, called nevertheless.

"deplorable."

The open-house celebration of Army Day, with thousands of both white and Negro civilians visiting their relatives and friends at the post, served as a strong rebuke against expressions of the race prejudice which has cropped up in such an ugly manner here.

It was impossible during my short visit at the post and the surrounding communities to gather sufficient facts on the shooting, which took place at Pointsville on the outskirts of the fort, to give a clear and accurate picture of everything that happened that tragic night. But both soldiers and civilians at the post and in the areas surrounding it admitted a strong anti-Negro prejudice has been in existence in the Pointsville area for some time.

This, they said, was a major contributing factor to the clash which took place outside the Waldron Sports Palace, just across the road from the Negro barracks.

TILL OF JIM CROW

Both white and Negro soldiers told me that Negroes had been discriminated against at the Sports Palace and other commercial recreation centers on the outskirts of the post.

Negroes were served at the bars in the vicinity along with white soldiers, a non-commissioned officer told me. But on many occasions they were charged higher prices than the whites to discourage them from seeking service there. The Sports Palace has now been closed by the Army authorities.

Although Col. Dowell and other high-ranking officers declared they noted no race chauvinism around the post, I heard numerous expressions of it—most of them guarded of course—both on and off the post. If the investigation of Thursday's shooting is to be a thorough one, the board of officers will necessarily have to make a

from the quartermaster corps ovens.

Over on the ballfield, opposite the station hospital, the soldiers were showing their folks how to operate the various types of weapons on display—the big 155 MM howitzers, 75 MM artillery pieces, 50 calibre machine guns and also the heavy and light machine guns.

The father of one boy was sitting down under the hot 90 degree sun operating the telegraph key of a mobile field radio outfit. He was an old telegrapher. The Signal Corps men in charge of the set applauded his technique.

On another section of the field a seventeen-year old girl, a sister of one of the soldiers, was getting instructions in the mysteries of the fast-shooting Garand rifle. After a few lessons she handled the infantry weapon quite well.

At the Southern District shops, on the Wrightstown - Pointsville Road, visitors were getting their first rides in the low-slung army jeeps and peeps.

Many of the civilians had their first real look at their army today. They expressed approval of it. But there was an undercurrent of disapproval of the tragic incident that occurred in Pottsville last week.

Battle at Dix

Hung from all public telephones at Fort Dix, N. J., March 25, were small cards reading: "Temporarily out of order, by order C. O." Post officials explained the telephones had been disconnected because members of the post had telephoned friends and relatives, giving the time of their departure and probable destination.

But the two telephones at Gus Waldron's Military Sports Palace, just across the dusty highway separating the military reservation from Pointville, N. J., had not been disconnected, and on the evening of April 2 white and Negro soldiers stood outside the booths waiting their turn. Elsewhere in the combination bar, penny arcade, lunchroom, and shooting gallery business was good. A Negro regiment had arrived about ten days previously, and pockets were still mildly flush from the March 31 payday.

Suddenly a fight started between a white and a Negro soldier in the line before the telephone booths, and a military policeman tried to separate the grapplers. Another Negro lunged for the M. P.'s pistol, tore the holster from the belt, but failed to get the gun and fled. The M. P. followed him outside and fired a shot over his head in command to halt.

As many of the 200 soldiers in the rambling brick and stucco structure crowded through the doorways into the outer darkness, a shot came from the Negro-occupied barracks across the road. Pvt. Manie W. Strouth of Honey Camp, Va., a member of the Fort Dix military police, fell dead in the thoroughfare. A half-dozen or more military police answered the fire, drawing a fusillade from the barracks. For twenty minutes the shooting continued.

Then Col. Herbert D. Forrest, post executive officer, drove into the line of fire, and the battle ended. Three men were dead and five were wounded. All but Strouth were Negroes.

Col. C. M. Dowell, post commander, characterized the incident as "merely a brawl," denying that racial issues had been involved. But there were rumors of hard feeling between many white and Negro soldiers at the post. An Army Board of Inquiry was convened to investigate. Even before it started officials said the colored regiment had been on the firing range that day and apparently had retained ammunition—a severe infraction of regulations.

SIDE BY SIDE

Over at the cooks and bakers school, where Lieut. A. N. Williams was escorting the civilian visitors through the new modern army bakery, the kitchens and the mess halls, Negro and white soldiers were working together, side by side over the hot ovens and ranges learning the cooking and baking trade. They were all comrades together, as they should be, in one anti-Axis army.

In his Army Day proclamation, Col. Dowell warned against any feeling or display of race or religious bigotry.

FOLKS VISIT SOLDIERS

"The army is, therefore, truly representative of the people of the United States," he said, "of all races and faiths which make up the American people. The country is faced with grave dangers and must rely on this, its citizen army, for protection and ultimate victory."

It was civilians' day all day at the post. Mothers, fathers, sweethearts and friends of the soldiers made the rounds of the camp with their loved ones.

At the bakers and cooks school they were given a taste of army chow.

Every visitor went home with a nice hot loaf of army bread, fresh

61-1942

NEW YORK

Incensed Long Island Townsfolk Clash With Cops Over Brutality

NEW YORK, N.Y.
PEOPLE'S VOICE 9-1942

By JAMES DEBOW and LEONARD BERG

No surprise to residents of Hempstead Town, L. I., was last Saturday night's clash between white police and Negroes. They've been expecting it. Conditions in the Hill (Negro-populated) district have been growing steadily worse ever since the Tet Parks case in Inwood two years ago. (Parks was a Negro accused by police of resisting arrest and brutally beaten as a consequence. Negro soldiers running afoul of the law out that way have received treatment not generally considered humane, and civilian criticism has been leveled in that direction time and again.

Last Saturday night not criticism, but a barrage of bricks, bottles, sticks and stone met the minions of the law. It was the underdog's time-honored method of self-expression. French peasantry used it in 1789.

Negro soldiers stationed at Mitchel Field don't have recreational facilities equal to those accorded others of their brothers in arms. Their USO canteen is a bar and grill on South Franklin street. There they fraternize, discuss topics of the day, sometimes vehemently. They have their arguments, sometimes friendly, sometimes otherwise.

Last Saturday night two soldiers got into an argument. It couldn't have been very serious, because they stopped and when through the door when a special officer (a Negro) spoke to them. On the sidewalk the two doughboys started again. The special officer, apprehensive, called local police.

Long before the arrival of the gendarmerie the differences were settled. Fellow soldiers had stepped in and convinced the combatants that force could better be used on the japs.

One of the arguing soldiers went back to camp. The other was crossing the street to join a lady friend who had hailed them. Then came the cops.

Identified by the special officer as the man who had caused the call to be sent in, the soldier found himself seized by his GI necktie. He resented the mauling, pushed the policeman's hands away. Next thing he knew he was being beaten about the head. Finally both policemen succeeded in putting handcuffs on him.

But bystanders were watching. They considered the methods of the law somewhat drastic and totally uncalled-for. The soldier's lady friend tried to tell the police so, found herself looking down a menacing revolver, heard herself called by a name which belied her gender, heard the warning: "If you advance another step, I'll shoot!"

People attracted by the commotion heard those words also. Most of them were Negroes. They may not have been Galahads, but there's no need to be when a woman's being threatened. Nor did the picture of that Negro soldier in uniform, being dragged across the street toward the police car, lessen the growing feeling of resentment against this demonstration of police methods as they have been. They surged.

Somehow one of the officers stumbled, pulling the soldier lad with him. It may be that the second officer thought he saw an attempted escape. He brought into action the gun he held in his hand, brought it down hard on the soldier's head, and together the two peace officers dragged their burden toward the police car. They bundled him in, left his feet dangling, his feet dragging along the paved street, trying to get him to the police station, less than three blocks away.

County police cars, detective squad cars by this time were screaming their way into South Franklin street. A riot call had been sent out. Military police and bluecoats were arriving in force. They met barrages of missiles—stones, bricks, bottles, rocks—and the battle was on.

Patrol car windshields shattered to the ground. Struck heads reeled with exploding comets. For a half hour the battle raged, with casualties falling on both sides. Powerless against the fury of the mob, the police fought a spirited battle. Finally it subsided, the clamor died down, the police were once again in control of the situation.

Sunday morning noses were counted. The score:

- Three Hempstead policemen injured.
- One white spectator treated for injuries from a thrown rock.
- Four Negroes convicted, their sentences suspended: Pearly Lee Rhodes, 20, of 17 Maple avenue; Elijah Jackson, 25, of 55 South Franklin street; John Miller, 42, of 61 Beech avenue; Viola Bryant, 21, of 11 Maple avenue.
- One Negro soldier, credited with starting the whole thing, reposing in the guardhouse at Mitchel Field: Private George Dixon, Camp Mills.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Whites Started Bronx Hi Riot, Minister Says

OCT 10 1942
The Rev. Edler Hawkins, Bronx clergyman, this week shed new light on the much-publicized beating of a white schoolboy in the Morris High School annex, Third ave. and 150 st, allegedly by 25 Harlem youths last Wednesday as an aftermath to "race riots" at the school.

As Rev. Hawkins relates the story, Negro students were beaten in a school classroom by white boys with lead pipes furnished them by the school custodian. Otto, while white teachers at the school guarded the exits to see that they did not escape. This, Rev. Hawkins told a reporter, occurred the day before the beating of 17-year-old Anthony Darmiento and the arrest of William Marrow, 17-year-old Negro youth of 10 W 107 st.

"I was sitting in my study when a girl named Ann, a student of the school, came over to me and asked me to rush over there—that there was trouble going on. When I arrived at the school I found that there had been an air-raid drill, during which a white boy, serving as an air-raid warden but not wearing his armband, pushed a Negro student, Tommy Ash, when the latter disobeyed his instructions. Friends of both boys became engaged in a fight. OCT 10 1942

"I interrupted the fight," the minister stated. "I told the Negro boys that if they had a grievance with some of the teachers I would be glad to mediate the difficulties, but that if they took matters into their own hands, I could have nothing to do with it. OCT 10 1942

Immediately after the disturbance, the clergyman said, the teachers called an assembly and got the boys who participated in the brawl to apologize to each other.

"Everybody thought the thing was settled, but evidently it wasn't," Dr. Hawkins said, "for on Wednesday, a group of white boys broke into a classroom where there were some Negro boys and a new fight broke out."

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

2 Held in Attack Linked To Race Riot at School

OCT 1 - 1942
Two 17-year-old Negroes were held in \$1000 bail each in Bronx Felony Court today on charges of felonious assault in a gang attack on a white youth last night which, Detective Fred Schaedel testified, was the sequel of a "race riot" between white and Negro students at the Morris High School Annex, 157th St. and Third Ave., earlier in the day.

The detective told Magistrate student at Evander Childs. When Morris Rothenburg that the condition of the white youth, Anthony Darmiento, 17, of 1227 Boston Post Rd., who is in Morrisania Hospital with a possible fracture of the skull after being beaten with a picket fence staves, was fair. A further hearing was set for Oct. 5.

Rescued by Cops.

The two accused youths, police said, were members of a gang of about 20 young Negroes who roamed the neighborhood of Morris High School after nightfall to avenge what they claimed was an unprovoked attack on Negro students in the school.

One of them, William Marrow, of 10 W. 107th St., an errand boy, was asserted at the scene by Patrolman Morris Schwartz of the Morrisania station, who witnessed the attack and fired a shot before he could rescue Darmiento.

The second, James Pearham, of 1168 Union Ave., the Bronx, a student at Evander Childs High School, was taken into custody early today by Detective Schaedel, who said Pearham told him that white boys had entered classrooms at the annex during a recess and beaten up Negro students without cause. OCT 1 - 1942

Twenty-four Injured.

The police report said a call had been sent to the station from the school, but that Assistant Principal Herman Eltins and two other officials had broken up a free-for-all fight between white and Negro boys before radio cars arrived. The report, however, said 24 of the youths had sustained bruises and other minor injuries and that a search of the combatants showed that one of the Negro students was armed with a knife and others with clubs and pieces of pipe which they had been able to use. OCT 1 - 1942

Patrolman Schwartz reported that Darmiento, who is suffering from a heart condition and is not a student, was standing in front of his home when the gang of Negro youths surrounded him and asked him whether he was a

Arthur Klein, principal of Morris High, said there had been a "fracas" at the school annex, but denied the incident led up to the attack on Darmiento. He said this was the first time such an incident had occurred in the school or one of its annexes, although about 10 per cent of the 3700 students are Negroes. He added that there recently has been an influx of Negroes into that section of the Bronx.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Two Draft Parties Wind Up in a Riot

OCT 6 - 1942
OCT 6 - 1942
Four White Men Jailed
After Battle in Harlem

OCT 6 - 1942
Four Harlem laborers, all white, were in the lineup today charged with felonious assault after two draft parties for white and Negro selectees entering the army today collided with bloody, almost-riotous force at 519 E. 117th St.

In a free-for-all among whites and Negroes, four colored people, two men and two women were so seriously hurt they had to be hospitalized, and detectives and radio cars were rushed from two Harlem precincts to quell the disturbance.

In addition three other Negro women were injured, an apartment was wrecked and doors and windows were smashed when a dozen of the white men invaded the four-story Negro tenement on E. 117th St. OCT 6 - 1942

were standing with friends in front-party was being held for Herbert of 117th St. and Pleasant Ave. Queensboro, Negro, of 319 E. 117th a soldier, when a Negro passed by. "Here's one colored fellow who won't do any more mugging," one of the group reportedly said. They chased the Negro, Ira Williams, to his home at 519 E. 117th St., where another draft

Man Hurt, Four Held In Rioting

NOV 7 1942

Geneva Workers Flee In Cries of "Lynch 'Em"

Following a pitched battle between a group of eight whites and four Negroes, all workers at the United States Naval Training base at Geneva, N. Y., Charles Compton, 35-year-old carpenter of Ithaca, was in the Geneva Hospital suffering from critical injuries, and three of his companions, arrested by State police, were being held on charges of second degree assault.

Arrested were William Coy, 23, of 19 Rochester Ave., Jerome Pate, 26, of 971 St. Mark's place, and Jerry Dixon, 24, of the Kingsboro Housing Project, all Brooklyn.

Writes to Parents

Details of the brawl were revealed in a letter written by Dixon to his parents. The three Brooklyn youths were on their way to the Naval Station employment office Oct. 16, Dixon writes. They had been hired in the Brooklyn headquarters and were to be assigned to jobs. Finding the station not yet open they walked about the base. It started to rain, so the trio ducked under a shelter in front of a carpenter's shop.

An unidentified white worker approached and asked them what they were doing under the shelter, the letter says. When the boys attempted to explain that they were new employees the white employee proceeded to call them abusive names and use profane language, Dixon asserts.

One of the Brooklyn boys then offered to settle the argument by fighting it out with the chap who had accosted them, Dixon's story goes, when suddenly a large man appeared with a four by four beam. After threatening them, Dixon says, the man struck Pate in the face with the beam, catching him on the chin. He was about to hit him again when Dixon attacked him in self-defense.

Dixon says he was hit on the head by another white swinging a club, knocking him to his knees.

"Bill (William Coy) then joined the fight," the letter continues. "Then seven or eight whites joined in, all with clubs, hammers and iron

rods. We had nothing at first—just hurt enough to fight. We fought so fast, taking their beams and bars, that, after several minutes, there was no one in the shop but us."

In the meantime other Negroes and whites had taken sides, and during the free-for-all Compton was felled. The latter was taken to the hospital, suffering from a fractured skull.

On leaving the fight scene, Dixon writes, the three Brooklyn lads were followed by 15 or 20 whites, who followed them to the home of a friend, where they sought refuge in

a cellar as the group of whites paraded about the house, yelling "Lynch them niggers."

In a few minutes the station guard arrived and the trio was taken to the station headquarters, the "lynch" shouts of the whites ringing in their ears.

Later, State police took them out of town and fingerprinted, handcuffed and questioned them. The boys are awaiting trial at the Sheriff's office at Waterloo, N. Y.

Colored Police Quell Near-Riot In Oklahoma

Break Up Crowd Of Soldiers and Civilians

SEP 26 1942

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.

—(ANP)—A near riot was averted here last Friday night as a result of a clash between military police and a soldier, Charles Coldwell, who is stationed at Will Rogers field.

The opportune arrival of two colored squad officers, who drew their guns and ordered both soldiers and civilians to disperse, saved the situation and paved the way for restoration of peace and order.

The military police—R. D. Williams and L. M. Jones,—declared, according to reports that Coldwell resisted and attacked them with rocks when they tried to take him into custody for being drunk and disorderly. SEP 26 1942

After being treated at City hospital for head wounds, Coldwell was turned over to military authorities who removed him to Will Rogers field, his encampment. Chief of Police Frank C. Smith made an inspection tour of the colored district following the Friday night disturbance.

SOLDIERS UNARMED

The military policemen are not armed. They carry nothing but clubs and when they have trouble with soldiers they have no armed protection. These developments will probably result in guns being placed on the military policemen. SEP 26 1942

City police officers have issued a warning to civilians that no riots will be tolerated in the city and civilians edging soldiers in attacks on

military police will be taken into custody. SEP 26 1942
CAUSES REVEALED

Military policemen have complained that much of their trouble stems from whiskey drinking soldiers who become disorderly and unruly and from those who start fights over the women who infest the street to court the attention of the service men.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

PISTOL FIRED IN CROWD AS TROOPS RIOT

NOV 7 - 1942

Two Military Police Beaten In Melee

Oklahoma City was the scene of a riotous disorder Saturday night, brought about by a clash between soldiers and military policemen, the second incident to occur here within recent months.

Having nothing with which to defend themselves but their fists and their sticks, two of the military policemen were severely beaten, and a third was struck. The men were ganged by a clique of soldiers while hundreds of others milled about the street.

The scene occurred in front of The Black Dispatch and then moved to the corner of Central avenue. All of the principals involved were colored.

A riot call brought practically every available police officer in the city to the vicinity. Traffic was blocked and men were fighting all over the street.

Two colored policemen, called to help the military officers quell the disturbance, were unable to do anything with the soldiers. One of the officers fired his gun, but this was greeted with jeers and threats. NOV 7 - 1942

The two military policemen requiring medical attention were Private R. D. Williams and Corporal Douglas Brown. Adolph Upshaw was struck, but not seriously injured.

The trouble was attributed to

a group of rowdy and disorderly soldiers, thought to have been drunk from bootleg whisky purchased in the neighborhood, who were accused of acting boisterous in night spots.

All of the soldiers who came to the city Saturday night, many of whom were on the scene when the disorder started, did not take any more than assuming the role of spectators, along with many civilians.

Much of the trouble of this kind seems to stem from the fact that the military policemen are not armed and have no adequate protection when they are ganged by a rowdy bunch of soldiers.

OKLAHOMA

used

Youth Resented Remarks Made To Girl By Man

JUL 11 1942 By ED R. HARRIS

Bitter feeling between bus drivers and residents of the section about the PTC bus terminal at 41st street and Haverford avenue flared into violence Tuesday night after a 21-year-old boy had been dragged into the terminal offices and severely beaten by several white workers.

The injured youth is Walter Stafford, 21, of 614 north Holly street. He was beaten following a dispute with a bus driver, who had made an insulting remark to a girl to whom Stafford was talking.

Hearing of the attack on Stafford, residents of the neighborhood poured into the streets. Stones and bricks were thrown and windows in the PTC building and buses coming in from their runs were broken. Police were on duty all night.

Stafford was arrested and charged with assault and battery and inciting to riot. He suffered severe cuts on the head, necessitating several sutures, and was treated at Presbyterian Hospital after being arrested. No whites were arrested.

The fighting began when Stafford stopped Clara Clark, 16, 4062 Wallace street, on the corner of 41st and Haverford avenue, and engaged her in a conversation.

A driver, whom no one could identify by name, walked by and remarked to the girl, "Why don't you stop stalling him off?" Stafford resented the remark and replied: "Why don't you say something like that to your wife?"

Strikes at Boy

The driver then walked back towards the group, which included two others, saying, "I don't let any nigger talk to me like that," and struck at the boy.

Stafford was hit twice and fell into the gutter. When he got up, the driver had gone into the terminal offices. The boy rushed towards the door looking for his assailant and was grabbed by three men, who pulled him inside and locked the door.

Several witnesses, including the Clark girl, said they could see a gang of white drivers and mechanics beating the boy, who was alone. They dragged him into a back office and Miss Clark said she looked through

a window and saw Stafford on the floor "out cold," with blood pouring from the wounds in the back of his head. The men were still beating him.

Try to Aid Him

Meantime Stafford's friends and neighbors had gathered and were trying to get in the locked doors, but were prevented from any further action by the arrival of police. When officers came on the scene, the crowds withdrew in orderly fashion.

Meantime the busmen did not open the doors of the office until the police arrived and Stafford was all the time lying on the floor unconscious. Police then arrested him and took him to the Hospital where he was treated. He was taken to City Hall and questioned and returned to the 50th and Lancaster avenue police station.

He was later released on a copy of the charge gotten from Magistrate Joseph H. Rainey by Theodore O. Spaulding, president of the local branch NAACP, and Mrs. Goldie E. Watson, of the National Negro Congress.

Of Slight Build

Stafford is a youth of slight build and weighs about 145 pounds. He was on his way home from the Pennsylvania Railroad, where he is employed as a laborer.

The bus drivers tried to make it appear as though the fight had started as an attempted hold-up with Stafford as the culprit and that he had charged into the waiting room of the terminal in an attempt to grab the money-changer from a driver. Clarence Donovan, 37, a driver, was struck on the head and slightly injured.

Mrs. Ann Jones, 607 North 42nd street, said she was looking out the window of her home on the corner,

PENNSYLVANIA

towards the terminal and saw the men dragging Stafford into the office; though she did not see the beginning of the fight. She hurried out of her house and, seeing Stafford unconscious on the floor of the office, was ushered away from the scene because she indignantly demanded that police take the boy to the hospital.

Boys Throw Bricks

Minor flurries continued all night with buses passing up Forty-second street and coming down Haverford avenue, being hit by bricks thrown by small gangs of youths.

It was in no sense a race riot. Despite the fact that there were several white business establishments in the neighborhood, there was no damage done to them. The ire of the crowd was directed towards the terminal. When police arrived, they had no trouble dispersing the people gathered there.

After Stafford was released, he complained that \$25 he had in a wallet in his pocket was missing when he recovered consciousness. He believed one of the bus workers took the money. He made no complaint of the treatment he received from the police.

Recall Indignities

Neighbors of the terminal aroused by the incident, recalled that the mechanics and drivers, who hang outside the terminal during the summer months, make a common practice of passing familiar remarks to women who go by.

Helen Denby and Margaret Hall, both of whom live at 612 North Brooklyn street, told reporters that no later than Saturday night they had to reprimand several men for such actions.

If one man is sitting on the bench outside and sees a woman coming, he calls his fellow workers inside and when the woman passes there may be as many as ten men standing outside, all making "cracks."

Stafford was given a hearing Wednesday morning at the 50th and Lancaster avenue station.

At the hearing Magistrate Roberts agreed to a further hearing to be held July 15.

Others Arrested

Four others arrested Tuesday night were also given a hearing. Agnes Roberts, 32, of 33rd street near Poplar, sister of Lenerte Roberts, West Philadelphia realtor; Bernice Hunt, 25, of Haverford avenue near 41st; and Zebbie Turner, 29, of 39th 41st; Zebbie Turner, 29, of 39th street near Brown; and Wendell Philpot, son of Rev. J. E. Philpot. The most that seemed to be said against them that they were nearest the police when the officers started arresting bystanders.

"Patted" Girl

The Clark girl, her sister, Carrie, 13, and Stafford told the Magistrate

that Donovan, the bus driver, was the man who had started the dispute by brushing near Clara and patting her on the back as he made his insulting remark.

White Jury Favors Negro Pair Driven From Home By Mob

12/5/47

The conviction last Wednesday of two whites charged with inciting to riot and accused of driving a colored family from its home with violence comparable to Gestapo methods, has been hailed by white and colored Philadelphians as a "devastating blow" to Negro-hating foes of democracy.

Convicted of inciting to riot by an all-white jury that debated their case for three hours, William J. Seymour and Helen Hayes faced pronouncement of sentence by Judge Gerald Flood in Common Pleas Court (yesterday (Wednesday)). Seymour and the Hayes woman were accused by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Green of leading the mob that drove them from their home at 2323 N. 13th street last March.

No Defense Witnesses

Despite the fact that the defendants had produced ten witnesses to testify that they were not in the vicinity of the Green residence when the rioting occurred, the jury decided against them. Mr. and Mrs. Green were the only witnesses called by the prosecutor, Abraham Berkowitz, assistant District Attorney.

When a trespassing mob of whites fired shots and threw milk bottles at the Greens' home last March, aroused citizens formed a special committee to obtain warrants for the arrest of the ringleaders. The committee's membership was composed of representatives of every outstanding Negro civic, religious and educational group and white members of local interracial organizations.

The committee attempted to establish whether police in the district had failed to give adequate protection to the Greens, since the mob was active for twenty minutes before police arrived. The mob finally succeeded in chasing the Greens from their home.

Threatened by Neighbors

Mrs. Green stated last March that she had been threatened on the morning they moved into the neighborhood by a man who lived opposite her and a woman living next door. She had then gone to ask police protection from Captain E. J. Clark of the 8th and Jefferson streets police station.

The Captain advised Mrs. Green to go either to Magistrate Edw. Henry or Magistrate Thomas Conner and obtain warrants to place the trouble-makers under a bond to keep the

peace. After her attempt to contact Magistrate Henry had failed, Mrs. Green took the advice of her rental agent, A. Shotz, and waited until the following morning to call him again.

Magistrate Henry later pointed out that Captain Clark's outline of procedure was entirely correct. Mrs.

Green's only method for protection, Magistrate Henry said, would have been to get such warrants (for which no fee required) return them to the the Captain, and have him serve them to individuals that she pointed out as her molesters.

"Such action would have removed ringleaders from the neighborhood and would have nipped the riot in the bud before it had a chance," he said.

Dec. 5, 1947

12/6/47

61-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

White PTC Driver Under Bail for Riot

PHILADELPHIA
The white bus driver whose insulting action toward a colored girl led to the brutal beating of a 19-year-old youth in the PTC bus garage at Forty-first and Haverford Avenue two weeks ago, and subsequent racial conflicts, was held in \$500 bail Monday by Magistrate Edward F. Roberts.

At the same time, the magistrate discharged the youth, Walter Stafford of 610 N. Holly Street, who had been charged with disorderly conduct and inciting to riot, and demanded that police bring in all of the white PTC workers involved in the beating.

Stafford, a railroad laborer, testified that he was standing on the corner talking to Miss Clara Clark, 16, of 4062 Wallace Street on July 7, when the bus driver, Walter Danavan, 37, of 4336 Thompson Street walked by, made an insulting remark and patted the girl on the back.

Youth Tells of Beating

When the youth resented the remark, he said, Donovan knocked him down and hit him again as he tried to rise.

Stafford said he rushed over to the door of the garage and was seized and dragged inside where seven or eight men beat him unmercifully, finally knocking him unconscious. One man, who Stafford said he could identify, hit him over the head with a coca cola bottle.

During the beating, Stafford testified, \$25 disappeared from his wallet, which was lying on the floor when he regained consciousness.

When a police detail under Acting Sergeant Young, of the Fiftieth and Lancaster Avenue station, arrived, Stafford was arrested along with four other colored persons in the crowd that had gathered as word of the assault got around.

Tries to Shield Mobsters

Sergeant Young, who blustered

PENNSYLVANIA

NNC Lawyer Arrested

The youth was slated before being taken to the hospital where he was treated for severe abrasions, cuts of the head and face.

Philip Dorfman, a young white attorney retained by the National Negro Congress to represent Stafford and other defendants, was himself arrested and slated for disorderly conduct on July 16 when he sought to talk to some of the persons taken into custody in the wholesale arrests. He was discharged by Magistrate Roberts on Monday.

his way through the hearing and was severely reprimanded by the magistrate for his handling of the situation, said he arrested Stafford because he was on PTC property.

Asked by Theodore Spaulding, an attorney and head of the Philadelphia NAACP, whether Stafford had pointed out any of his assailants, Young said he "couldn't remember."

The one-sided action of police in arresting only colored persons the night of the beating and twenty-two colored persons indiscriminately the next night drew the ire of local civic leaders who asked Mayor Bernard Samuel to remove five policemen said to be directly involved.

Mayor's Promise Flops

The mayor said he would have the matter looked into and take what action he thought necessary, but to date nothing else has been heard from him. Those against whom charges of unnecessary roughness and discriminatory tactics were placed are Young, Captain Walter Sadowski, Lieutenant Monk and Patrolmen Rollo and Berg.

At the hearing, Monday, Mrs. Carolyn Stafford, mother of Walter, exhibited the blood-stained shirt he wore the night of the assault.

She said she and her husband had attended a funeral in Wilmington and when she learned of the beating on arriving home she went to the police station, then to the Presbyterian Hospital, then back to the police station before she could locate her son.

61-1942

Greenville, S. C. Observer
May 15, 1942

A NEAR RACE RIOT

(Textile Tribune, Spartanburg, S. C.)

All the details never did get into the press but a fair sized race riot was barely averted a few nights ago out near the creosoting plant when shotguns and pistols went into action in the hands of indignant citizens who are not going to be pushed around by a bunch of white men catering to negro workers to join the CIO.

These white men live in Greenville. And one of the Greenville CIO organizers is the noted Doctor Witherspoon Dodge, who borrowed a large sum of money from a woman school teacher and never repaid one cent of it. Also borrowed up into the thousands of dollars from a bank in Anderson and never repaid but a few dollars—less than fifty. Doc Dodge lives, or did at our last knowledge, in the Greenville hotel, one of Greenville's finest and it is presumed the other organizers live equally as sumptuous.

Now these white men are coming from Greenville to organize negro workers in the creosoting plant. Why? Why do they leave their abode of luxury and comfort and journey over here meeting with the negroes at night in school houses and negro homes? Did they feel a sudden compassion for the Spartanburg negroes and vow by the eternal gods they would reach down and give them a helping hand? Did they pick out this particular bunch of negroes for the purpose of helping them? Did they have that much interest in the Spartanburg negroes? Huh!

The plain truth of the matter is these white men are trying to get the Spartanburg negroes to help them. They simply want the negroes to join the CIO and pay dues which will go into their pockets. And besides, have they gotten all the negroes in Greenville taken care

SOUTH CAROLINA

of to where they want for nothing? There are just lots and lots of negroes that need help more than the workers at the creosote plant.

Let us here apologize to the fair city of Greenville for using the name in connection with these CIO organizers. No insult intended.

But that's the mess. That's the picture. That's the extent some folks will go for easy money—and in the name of organized labor.

That's the CIO.

61, 1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Blame Pegler For Tenn. Riot Scare

JACKSON, Tenn. (ANP)—Local residents this week voiced loud criticism of Westbrook Pegler, nationally known white newspaper columnist, for one of his recent releases which they say started the suspicion that northern Negroes and foreign fifth columnists were stirring up feeling and planning a race riot here.

The riot, allegedly, was set for last Saturday night, and caused local authorities to place extra police and deputies in addition to the West Tennessee highway patrol. Heavily armed guards also patrolled the Negro district, according to reports. Many whites, it was said, blamed the Negro press, local and national, for the scare, but this was untrue, residents declare, because they had no intimation of it, carried no stories concerning it.

Although at its peak, feeling between the races was declared at white heat, no trouble resulted and the "riot" was confined to the argumentative stage.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

RIOT RUMOR BLOWS OVER AT JACKSON

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TENNESSEE

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE OFFICER OFFERS TO DIE WITH SOLDIERS

SEP 19 1942

SEP 19 1942

By EDNA GERMAINE
(For ANP)

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 17—The well-trained Negro military police of the United States Army are noticeably missing from the streets of Nashville. After questioning several men who were formerly seen wearing this badge of military authority, the answer determination not to return the was found to be the same: "We prisoner . . . white men with drawn were ordered to turn in our badges guns, military and city police and clubs Wednesday, Sept. 2." It equally determined that this hardly seems incidental that this is the unanimous opinion of order came the day after a near all witnesses interviewed that only riot between Negro and white the type of diplomacy exercised by MP's.

According to a local daily, the officer of the day could have city police used tear gas to settle this dispute which occurred around "Boys, I am with you. If you are midnight Tuesday, Sept. 1. This willing to die here as you say you was vehemently branded as false, I'll die too. We are outnumbered by a Negro MP whose name is being purposely withheld. "It is to die and I think it best that the profound respect we have for you turn the prisoner over . . . but our officer of the day that averted I want you to make your own decision knowing that I am with that riot. No tear gas was used but several guns were drawn," he said.

SEP 19 1942
RESENTED EPITHET

Witnesses give an altogether different version from the one appearing in the daily paper here. It is said white MP's drove up in their police car and told the Negro MP's on duty in that vicinity they had picked up "a drunk nigger soldier." The Negro MP's resented the use of the epithet as well as the fact that the white officers had made an arrest in their territory (which they are not supposed to do unless assistance is asked by the officers in charge). When Negro MP's demanded that the prisoner be turned over to them, the whites refused, backing up their refusal with drawn guns. The Negro unarmed MP's, it is said, flanked by several Negro soldiers, ignored the guns and took the prisoner from the car, almost overturning it in the procedure.

The white MP's left and, according to the number of other MP's returning with them, evidently put in a riot call. The Negro officers put in the same type of call and they faced each other . . . all wearing the United States Army uniforms . . . defenders of democracy all . . . black men with clubs, bottles, a few knives and a dogged

Nashville. After questioning several men who were formerly seen wearing this badge of military authority, the answer was found to be the same. "We were ordered to turn in our badges and clubs Wednesday, September 2." It hardly seems incidental that this order came the day after a near riot between Negro and white MP's.

According to a local daily, the city police used tear gas to settle this dispute that occurred around midnight Tuesday, September 1. This was vehemently branded as false by a Negro MP whose name is being purposely withheld. "It is the profound respect we have for our officer of the day that averted that riot. No tear gas was used but several guns were drawn," he said.

SEP 16 1942

VERSION DIFFERS

Witnesses give an altogether different version from the one appearing in the daily paper here. It is said white MP's drove up in their police car and told the Negro MP's on duty in that vicinity they had picked up "a drunk nigger soldier." The Negro MP's resented the use of the epithet as well as the fact that the white officers had made an arrest in their territory. (which they are not supposed to do unless assistance is asked by the officers in charge.) When Negro MP's demanded that the prisoner be turned over to them, the whites refused backing up their refusal with drawn guns. The Negro unarmed MP's it is said, flanked by several Negro soldiers, ignored the guns and took the prisoner from the car almost overturning it in the procedure.

The white MP's left and, according to the number of other MP's returning with them, evidently put in a riot call. The Negro officers put in the same type of call, and they faced each other . . . all wearing the United States Army uniforms . . . defenders of democracy all . . . black men with clubs, bottles, a few knives and a dogged determination not to return the prisoner. . . white men with drawn guns, military and city police equally determined.

It is the unanimous opinion of all witnesses interviewed that only the type of diplomacy exercised by the officer of the day could have averted the riot. He is reported to have told his Negro soldiers that "Boys, I am with you. If you are willing to die here as

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Nashville MP's Banned After "Near Riot"

SEP 16 1942

Only Diplomacy
Prevents High

Disorder Sept. 1

SEP 16 1942

By EDNA GERMAINE

NASHVILLE (ANP)—The well-trained Negro military police of the United States army are noticeably missing from the streets in

you say you are, I'll die, too. We are outnumbered and unarmed. I don't want to die and I think it best that you turn the prisoner over. . . but I want you to make your own decision knowing that I am with you."